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### MISSION STATEMENT

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH  
TILLSONBURG, ONTARIO**

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## 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.



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**A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER ~ Rev. Pat Cook**

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***"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
Psalm 118:24"***

The 24<sup>th</sup> verse from Psalm 118 encourages us to rejoice and be glad not just on Sunday, but every day of the week. Like the people in the Psalms, we are not always brimming with joy. But no matter how the Psalmists felt, they were always honest with God. After a time of meditation, the Psalmists' prayers always ended in praise. When we don't feel like rejoicing, we need to express how we truly feel in prayer and God will give us a reason to rejoice. God has given us this day to live, to serve in all that we do, and at the end of the day we will have something for which to give thanks.

This has been a difficult year for St. Paul's. Many events have transpired that did not bring us resounding joy. With the passing of Rev. Mark, as a congregation, we grieve the loss of his shepherding, leadership and friendship.

In July, we had a flood crisis, which created a time of change. It was difficult to imagine what effect this watershed would have on the functioning and ministry at the church. However, we are grateful for the support of the congregation and staff during this time of transition and I'm sure everyone is getting anxious for the time of completion and back to a state of normalcy.

As we move forward, I'm sure occurrences will take place where as a congregation, we can rejoice, be glad, and give thanks for a time to share our skills and talents as we enjoy ministry and fellowship with one another.

God's Blessing be upon you,  
Rev. Pat

**FROM OUR VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATE MINISTER ~ Rev. Maurice Francis**

Now that I have been a VAM for a year, it's time to take a look at what's different between being a part time, part time retired assistant

and a Volunteer Associate Minister. For one thing the title is shorter. The pay is less. But I have been glad to help out in lesser ways as time and necessity required. As we know our full time Minister, Mark Ferrier died while in active service in May. What a shock for our Congregation. As a result of Mark's passing we three retired Ministers including Pat Cook and Debra Hinksman and myself plus Lay Worship leaders Fran Bell and Cheryl Buchner all affiliated with St. Paul's, were called to more involvement than we might otherwise have intended.

Somehow we have done our best to keep the ministry alive and active over the last several months. Now we await the decision to Call a new full time Minister sometime in the new year.

My involvement has been to continue to assist with some services including Communion, plus occasional visits with communion to Seniors' in home and Hospital plus places of Assisted Living such as Harvest, Maple Manor, Woodingford Lodge and Tillsonburg Retirement Center. Compared to even a year ago the majority of our people living in Assisted Living Residences are located in Tillsonburg.

I hope to continue to be available to help out where needed to assist those in fuller employment. May we experience peace and compassionate understanding as we move forward to the next chapter of life in the church and beyond.

Rev. Maurice Francis

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**CHURCH COUNCIL ~ Submitted by Brian Clark, Chair**

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This has been an extraordinary year in all respects. The Church Council and Committees responded well to the challenges and the

Congregation has strongly supported the Council's efforts. I'd like to review the year's events.

At the start of the year, we had a tenant in the Manse property and instead of it being a heavy expense on our books, it saved us over \$10,000 in costs. And the Cup and Cake has been very successful. Much of the credit for the turnaround goes to Jed Drew and the Trustees for the work they did in the previous year to make the building attractive to a tenant.

In May, Rev. Mark Ferrier was called home and in the midst of this loss, the Worship Committee capably filled our pulpit week after week. Rev. Pat Cook, Rev. Maurice Francis, Rev. Deb Hinksman, and our Licensed Lay leaders such as Fran Bell have helped us throughout the year and we are grateful.

Then came the great flood in July. Since then, Dave Morris and the Property Committee along with the Restoration Committee have supervised the recovery work and managed the paperwork between Service Master and the Insurance Adjuster. This has involved hours of work and many phone calls and emails. By the time you read this report, everything should be back to normal. Our sister churches, St. John's Anglican Church and Avondale - Zion United Church have both offered assistance during the recovery period and we appreciate all that they have done.

Throughout it all, Doreen Smith, Laurie Drew, Ron Wycherley and Deb Wycherley from the Finance Committee kept everything on track. For the first time in memory, our finances were positive throughout the summer months despite the disruption of the flood. The Congregation has been exceptionally supportive during the crisis.

I want to say a word about our wonderful Staff at St. Paul's. Helen Loehndorf took the move to temporary quarters in stride and with a smile. She has done amazing things for St. Paul's! Floyd Marshall and Ron Stafford have each had their own concerns this year. Ron's terrible car accident left all of us shaken and we are so very grateful

that he not only survived but is recovering. Karen Hodges also had health concerns this year and we are very happy that she has recovered well. Shelley Vermeersch continues to work quietly and effectively providing music each Sunday and working with the Choir.

Mary Anne Silverthorn and the Ministry and Personnel Committee managed the care for each of our Staff and also the insurance benefits for Rev. Mark's estate. The M&P Committee have had an extraordinary workload this year and they have managed it very well.

In the Fall, we learned of the needed repairs to our Pipe Organ. Margot Leachman and the Worship Committee followed up with Jan Van der Stad and Associates and we now have a contract to repair this valuable instrument and much of the funding is in place to do so. We continue to raise funds for these repairs and for exterior work to be done on the Sanctuary.

Finally, we held a successful "Hooked on Music" series of concerts and an expanded version is in the planning stages for 2017.

Looking back at what could have been termed a horrible year, I find instead that it was a miraculously good year and I use the word "miraculous" deliberately. God has been with us as always. The support of the Congregation and the efforts of the Council, Committees and Staff this past year now allows us to enter 2017 with confidence.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Clark, Chair of Council

**ANNUAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2017  
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 12 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 2017 Agenda
6. Motion to approve Minutes of February 21, 2016 Annual Meeting, October 2 and the November 27, 2016 Congregational meetings
7. Chair's Report – Brian Clark
8. Minister's Report - Reverend Pat Cook
9. Transitions of 2016
  - ♦ Baptism, Marriage, Funerals/Memorial Services/Committals
10. Committee Reports
  - ♦ Motion to approve 2016 Committee reports as printed
11. Nominating committee report – Brian Clark
  - ♦ Motion to approve 2017-2018 Church Council
  - ♦ Motion to Confirm the Trustees for 2017-2018
12. Appointment of Lay Presbytery Representatives
  - ♦ Motion to elect 2017-2018 Presbytery Representatives
13. Treasurer's report
  - ♦ 2016 Financial Report
  - ♦ 2017 Budget Proposal
14. Appointment of auditor for 2017 financial records
  - ♦ Motion to approve financial auditor for 2017 records
15. Change of Chairperson
16. New Business
17. Next Annual Meeting Date – February 11, 2018
18. Adjournment, Blessing and Sending Forth
  - ♦ Motion to adjourn

## MINUTES OF 2016 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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The Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Paul's United Church was held in the Banquet Hall on Sunday, February 21, 2016.

### 1. Lighting the Christ Candle

Opening of the Annual Meeting with Scripture and Prayer

### 2. Call to Order

Brian Clark, Council Chair called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

### 3. Appointment of Recording Secretary

**Motion C15-01** Moved by: Laurie Drew

Seconded by: Dave Morris

*Resolved that Debbie Beres be appointed Recording Secretary for the February 21, 2016 Congregational Meeting*

**Carried**

### 4. Extension of Voting Privileges to Adherents

**Motion C15-02** Moved by: Mary Anne Silverthorn

Seconded by: Sheila McKibbin

*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 2016 Agenda

**Motion C15-03** Moved by: Thelma Hadwen

Seconded by: Deb Wycherley

*Resolved, the agenda for the 2016 Congregational Meeting be approved as printed and amended.*

**Carried**

### 6. Approval of Minutes of February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Congregational Meeting

**Motion C15-04** Moved by: Doreen Smith

Seconded by: Rita Van Lamoen

*Resolved that the minutes of the February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Congregational meeting be approved as printed.*

**Carried**

### 7. Chair's Report

Chair Brian Clark highlighted items from his report printed on page 5 (five) of the Annual report.

### 8. Minister's Report

Reverend Mark Ferrier highlighted areas from his report printed on page 3 (three) of the annual report.



**9. Transition 2015: Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals /Memorial Services  
Committals/In Memoriam – Reverend Mark**

**10. Committee Reports**

Thank you to Mary Beard who retired from our choir after 22 (twenty-two) years.

**Motion C15-05** Moved by: Henry Atkinson                      Seconded by: Esther Sol

**11. Manse Report**

Jed Drew discussed the Manse report found on page 19 (nineteen). Going forward, Jed will be the property manager for the manse. Jed answered questions from the congregation regarding maintenance, rent and options for the manse.

Thank you to Jed for the many hours required to put this report together. It is a valuable document.

**Motion C15-06** Moved by: Sam Helsdon                      Seconded by: Mary Anne Silverthorn  
*Resolved, to receive the Manse report on behalf of the congregation.*

**Carried**

**12. Nominating Committee Report – Brian Clark**

Brian read the list of committee members for the 2016 council and asked for nominations from the floor for vacant positions.

**Motion C15-07** Moved by: Sam Helsdon                      Seconded by: Laurie Drew  
*Resolved, the 2016-2017 proposed church council be approved*

**Carried**

**Motion C15-08** Moved by: Laurie Drew                      Seconded by: Maida Chanyi  
*Resolved, the 2016-2017 trustees be confirmed*

**Carried**

**13.Appointment of Lay Presbytery Representatives**

**Motion C15-09** Moved by: Dorell Clark                      Seconded by: Brenda Marshall  
*Resolved, the appointment of Doreen Smith and Mary Anne Silverthorn as Lay Presbytery Representatives be approved.*

**Carried**

**14.Treasurer's Report – Laurie Drew**

**2015 Financial Report**

**Motion C15-10** Moved by: Laurie Drew                      Seconded by: Doreen Smith  
*Resolved, the 2015 Financial Report be approved as presented.*

**Carried**

**2016 Budget – Laurie Drew**

**Motion C15-11** Moved by: Laurie Drew

Seconded by: Deb Wycherley

*Resolved, the 2016 Budget be approved as printed and amended.*

**Carried**

**15. Appointment of Auditor for 2016**

**Motion C15-12** Moved by: Sam Helsdon

Seconded by: Doreen Smith

*Resolved that Paul Hanson be appointed as auditor for 2016, pending availability*

**Carried**

**16. New Business**

- Discussion from the floor regarding our long-term plans for St. Paul's. The consensus was, we should be starting dialogue with Avondale United.

There was no formal recommendation, but Brian will contact the Chair of council at Avondale United.

- Mary Anne Silverthorn thanked all of the staff for their dedication to St. Paul's.

Performance reviews have all been completed and in general the staff are happy to be a part of St. Paul's. Mary Anne asked congregational and council members to be respectful of our staff, while they are in attendance at church related events as members.

- On behalf of council, Mary Anne extended her thanks to Brian for his dedicated leadership.

**17. Next Annual Meeting Date – February 12, 2017**

**18. Covenanting with new Committee Chairpersons and members**

This will be done at the next council meeting

**19. Adjournment, Commissioning and Benediction**

**Motion C15-13** Moved by: Dave Ramer

*Resolved, the 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Paul's United Church be adjourned. Time: 1:25 p.m.*

**Carried**

Note: There were 64 congregational and council members in attendance.

# St. Paul's United Church

## Minutes of St. Paul's United Church Congregational meeting C2016-01

*We are a community minded Christian congregation, called to serve God by serving others*  
**October 2, 2016.**

The Congregation of St. Paul's United Church met in the Sanctuary.

### 1. Call to Order:

The congregational meeting was called to order at 11:35 am by Mary Anne Silverthorn, Chair of Pastoral Relations, Oxford Presbytery.

### 2. Purpose of the Meeting:

The meeting was called to discuss the process and motions needed to retain a minister.

### 3. Meeting information:

- Profiles were made available to everyone prior to the meeting.
- Members of the document committee:  
Jed Drew, Dr. Harvey Elliot, Fran Bell, Kelly Springer, Dave Morris, Sheila McKibbin, Mary Hessler and ex-officio, Dr. Brian Clark.
- The approved reports will go to Oxford Presbytery Pastoral Relations committee next week.
- Mary Anne asked for questions from the congregation – there were none.
- Motions were presented.

**Motion C16-01** Moved by: Dave Beres Seconded by: Rita VanLamoen

Resolved, the St. Paul's Local Ministry (Congregation) affirms the Ministry and Mission Priorities, the Financial and Demographic Profile and the Ministry Personnel Position description as presented on Oct.2, 2016. As per Motion 16-67 from the December 2016 council meeting, direction to add a diaconal minister to the job description was approved.

**Carried**

**Motion C16-02** Moved by: Thelma Hadwen Seconded by: Nancy Fitzpatrick

Resolved, the Congregation of St. Paul's UC Tillsonburg requests Oxford Presbytery through the Oxford Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee to declare a vacancy at St. Paul's United Church Tillsonburg effective immediately.

**Carried**

**Motion C16-03** Moved by: Deb Wycherley Seconded by: Indira Reynolds

Resolved, the members of St. Paul's Search committee be namely: Fran Bell, Jed Drew, Harvey Elliot, Mary Hessler, Sheila McKibbin, Dave Morris and Kelly Springer

**Carried**

**Motion C16-04** Moved by: Laura Mahoney Seconded by: Terry Pond

Resolved, the congregation of St Paul's extend their appreciation to the Profile writing team. Further, the team be disbanded following approval of the documents by Oxford Presbytery.

### 4. Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am

# St. Paul's United Church

DB  
C2016-02

## Minutes of St. Paul's United Church Congregational meeting *We are a community minded Christian congregation, called to serve God by serving others*

November 27, 2016

The Congregation of St. Paul's United Church met in the Sanctuary

### 1. Call to Order:

The congregational meeting was called to order at 11:40 am by Brian Clark, Chair, St. Paul's Council

### 2. Purpose of the Meeting:

The meeting was called to discuss and approve motions for repairs to the organ and exterior of the church

### 3. Meeting information:

#### a) ORGAN

- The organ was manufactured in Germany and has 1,707 (one thousand seven hundred seven) pipes in it. The replacement cost is estimated at \$1,000,000 (one million dollars)
- Over the years, maintenance had been deferred because of our financial situation
- Cost for repairs to the organ are: \$62,602 (sixty two thousand, six hundred two dollars) including HST. A 10% (ten percent) discount is available if all the repairs are done at the same time.
- The parts required will come from Europe and if approved, the work would commence in January 2017 and be done by April. These repairs will not interfere with the music at the Worship services
- The payment schedule would be:
  - ✓ \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) retainer
  - ✓ \$11,500 (eleven thousand five hundred dollars ) first installment
  - ✓ \$ 7,500 (seven thousand five hundred dollars) second installment
  - ✓ \$11,500 (eleven thousand five hundred dollars) third installment
  - ✓ \$ 5,000 (five thousand dollars) fourth installment
  - ✓ \$ 4,360 (four thousand three hundred sixty dollars (final payment)
- Financial situation:
  - We have been approved for an interest free loan from Presbytery for 13,440 (thirteen thousand four hundred forty dollars) repayable in full by December 2018.
  - We have a line of credit available at the Royal Bank for \$40,000 (forty thousand dollars)
  - Donations to date amount to \$1,050 (one thousand fifty dollars)
  - Other options could be: Private loans at a low rate of interest; a fund-raising campaign (Pick a pipe) based on the number of pipes in the organ.

#### b) PAINTING AND REPAIRS OF EXTERIOR ROOF

- The painting has also been deferred for many years.
- Cost for painting - \$28,000 (twenty eight thousand dollars) including HST

- An option would be to combine the fundraising with the organ repairs
- A bequest was received for \$18,000 (eighteen thousand dollars) that could be directed to the painting and repairs.

### 3. Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am

Hugh McBryde  
Ruby Fleming  
Rev. Mark Ferrier  
William "Bill" Berg  
Muriel Waldeck  
Teresa Stier  
George Beard  
Louise Johnson  
Hazel Riley  
John "Jack" Smith

## BY WAY OF BAPTISM

March 27, 2016	Carson Ryley Foster son of Meagan Foster
May 01, 2016	Marcus Johan Van Hoeve son of Jacobus and Jeannet Van Hoeve

January 25, 2016                      John Langton

June 11, 2016	Darren Paul Swick	Tiffany Amber Csomos
August 27, 2016	Christopher William Chilcott	Tracy Lynn Kendrick
September 17, 2016	Anthony Robert Verbrugge	Misty Lee Johnson

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE ~ Margot Leachman, Chair**

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Members: Chair, Margot Leachman, Rev. Mark Ferrier, Shelley Vermeersch, Organist/choir director, Anne Galeckas, Shirley Godfree, Thelma Hadwen, Laura Mahoney, Doreen Smith, Carol Morling.

This year has been a year of great sadness, grief and sorrow as well as a year of abundant blessings. Rev. Mark Ferrier passed away in May after a long illness battling liver disease. The Flood caused all manner of destruction and damage. Members of our staff experienced difficult life situations. And yet, the members of St. Paul's United church continued to be present for all our staff, continued to support them and each other, and found the stamina, faith and energy to go forward.

Until Rev. Pat Cook was appointed the Interim minister, and even as she stood back to deal with her own health issues, we were able to worship in the Banquet Hall every Sunday thanks to the many people who stepped in as pulpit supply. We are immensely thankful that Rev. Maurice Francis, Fran Bell, Rev. Tom Hiscock, Rev. Cheryl-Ann Staedelbauer-Sampa, Rev. Deb Hinksman, Rosalie Willaert and Lynne Dunlop were able to share time with us. We also thank Ruth Francis and Carol Ferguson for sharing their talent in music when they played for us while our organist/pianist was on holiday.

A stained glass window will be installed in the transom over the inside Bidwell Street entrance in memory of Rev. Mark's ministry with us. It will feature the descending dove of Pentecost, the symbol of the Holy Spirit which God sent to help us do His work in the world. It honours Mark's involvement in and commitment to Social Justice Issues. A new pulpit bible will also be presented in Mark's memory.

We held communion services on the First Sunday of Lent, Palm Sunday, Pentecost, Worldwide Communion, and the First Sunday of Advent. As well, several special Sundays were observed. The UCW welcomed Starr Ferris as their speaker for UCW Sunday in May, the AOTS welcomed Rev. Deb Hinksman for their AOTS Sunday in November, and we held the Good Friday, Easter and Christmas Eve services while choosing not to have a service on December 25. In April, Stewardship and UCW held a special service to high-light child poverty in Canada with the theme Bread Not Stones. Rev. Judy Campbell joined us for our 149<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.

We appreciate the work of our volunteers as they learn how to operate our new sound system.

Council has approved the work of cleaning and repairing the 1707 pipes in our organ chest which interface with our digital organ. That work should be completed in April of 2017.

The Worship committee sent out two Newsletters, one at Thanksgiving and another for Advent.

At present, we are once again in the Sanctuary for Sunday worship and we look forward to the completion of the rest of the construction of the Friendship center with great anticipation.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to the committee for all your work and support this past year. I could not have done it without you!

Respectfully submitted by  
Margot Leachman, Chair

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### **ST. PAUL'S CHOIR ~ Terry Pond, President**

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2016 presented challenges. Alongside the rest of our church family we dealt with the highs and lows of the year. Together we persevered. We did our little part to continue the ministry of music at St Paul's. Shelley Vermeersch keeps us focused with new and challenging anthems. Unfortunately, circumstances kept us from presenting our annual Christmas Cantata. Again, thank-you Shelley for your time, patience and encouragement.

Again, this year St Paul's choir members and guests presented some special music...

- March 6<sup>th</sup> – Guest soloist Rev. Peter Black sang “Prodigal Son”
- March 20<sup>th</sup> – “A Musical Afternoon”; Rick Aubrey and Terry Pond as part of The Gentlemen of Harmony, Thelma Hadwen MC
- March 27<sup>th</sup> – the choir sang “Jesus is Crucified ... Jesus is Risen” by Rev. Peter Black
- June 26<sup>th</sup> – the choir sang “Canada From East to West” by Rev. Peter Black.
- Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> – the men of the choir sang “Turn Your Radio On” as part of AOTS Sunday

Thanks to Thelma Hadwen and her 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.

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!

Respectfully submitted by  
Terry Pond, President

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### **FLOWER COMMITTEE ~ Carol Morling**

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Thanks to the generous donations of many families, flowers were placed in the Sanctuary for most of the Sunday services. After the service, the flowers were delivered to the ill, shut-ins and recently bereaved members.

At Christmas, 44 poinsettias were arranged in front of the Communion Table and around the Sanctuary. This generous donation by Ann Foster and Susan Cluett enables us to have church members deliver a poinsettia to members and adherents as an expression of our outreach ministry.

Many thanks to the committee members, Jean Mills, Anne Beard, Peg Hogarth, Wilma Jeffery, and Ruth Watters, as well to the extra people who came out and helped with the Christmas decorations around the church.

## OXFORD PRESBYTERY REPORT for 2016 ~ Mary Anne Silverthorn

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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 – (St. Paul's Council).

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. Elizabeth Lemon (Retired) completed her term as Chair of Presbytery for 2015-2016 in September. The present Chair's position is shared by Rev. Maya Landell from the Innerkip-Eastwood Pastoral Charge and Rev. Sarah Grady from the Oxford Centre-Curries Pastoral Charge. Their term ends in September of 2017. The Chair – elect is Rev. Mark Marshall – of Thamesford Pastoral Charge. (Rev. Maya's last meeting was the December Presbytery meeting. She is transferring to Toronto Conference, Islington UC effective January 1, 2017).

Each meeting is centred 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 been follow-up on decisions (particularly about the Remits) 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.)* 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**. Many of our Presbytery discussions this year have included conversations about the Syrian refugee programme, plans for Oxford's participation and supporting and assisting the family following their arrival.

Lay reps are designated by the number of members at a Pastoral Charge (as outlined in the UC 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 (until May 2016), 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 (until his death in May 2016)

**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**

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Trustees are happy to report a successful year, financially speaking.

The \$10,000.00 Façade Improvement Program grant money from Tillsonburg BIA to assist in the renovation of the manse was received and deposited to the Manse Repair Fund. Manse repairs were expensed to the following items: hot water heater; kitchen fire and safety equipment; garage roof, gutter and ceiling; rewire and replace emergency exit lights. The Repair Fund is at \$2,348.91 to begin 2017. Resuming in 2017, as had been done in prior years, one third (\$4,000.00) of the annual manse income will be set aside each year into the Repair Fund to build a reserve for future maintenance costs. Trustees are inspecting and monitoring the Manse on a quarterly schedule. No unusual maintenance expenses for 2017 are anticipated at this time.

Cup and Cake (Ms. Jo Brooks) is enjoying a thriving business. Under the terms of her lease Ms. Brooks has sublet rooms on the second floor. This sublet indirectly benefits St. Paul's. We are now more assured of continual upkeep of the Manse building, including leasehold improvements. In the past everything slowly sank into disrepair from neglect, but with the current active tenancy throughout the building and with a formal inspection schedule we expect to keep ahead of the maintenance issues.

One of the five Pressey Estate GICs matured in February and was renewed for a five-year term at 2.26% with National Bank. The five GICs generated \$4,994.65 of interest income. Under the terms of the bequest, the interest was made available to the Property Committee for maintenance expenses.

St. Paul's received bequests from three different sources in 2016. Alex Ferguson - \$18,890.84 with an adjustment of approximately \$332 to follow. Bill Thompson - \$1,186.00. Louise Johnson - \$1,000.00. Trustees released the above funds from investment to Council's use as they deem appropriate.

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

Insurance expenses were as follows: \$7,404.25 + \$287.51 PST (church) and \$1,264.19 + \$49.09 PST (manse).

Thank you to all committee members for dedicating their time and talents for the benefit of St. Paul's. Membership remains the same for 2017.

John Somerville Deputy Chair  
Board of Trustees for 2016:

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

**St. Paul's United Church Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes of Meeting – December 11, 2016**

**Call to Order**

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Chair John Somerville. In attendance were: Brian Clark, Dale Springer, Sheila McKibbin, Deb Wycherley, Dave Morris, Harley Jackson, Jed Drew and John Somerville.

**Welcome and Opening Prayer**

John Somerville welcomed everyone and offered an opening prayer.

**Presentation of Agenda**

The agenda was presented.

Motion – To approve the agenda Dave Morris/Sheila McKibbin – Carried

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes for the Jan. 10, 2016 meeting were reviewed.

Motion – That the Minutes of the Jan. 10, 2016 meeting be approved.

Jed Drew/Dave Morris – Carried

**Old Business - Manse Maintenance**

Jed Drew reported that all quarterly inspections of the manse had been conducted with the tenant. To date this year, \$7,567.94 had been billed to the manse repair fund, as per the attached worksheet. The balance in the fund is 2,348.91. Effective January 1, 2017 one-third of the monthly rent will be allocated to the Manse Repair Fund so that we can build up a fund for future maintenance issues. Thus, the fund will grow by \$4,000.00 per year.

There are no outstanding maintenance issues. The plan to provide a French drain between the manse and church this year was put on hold, with the mutual agreement of the tenant. There has been no leakage into the basement at all this year. We will continue to monitor and if there is no further leakage we will postpone the work indefinitely.

**New Business - Investments**

Jed Drew provided the attached Investment Funds Summary Statement.

Motion – That the HSBC Bank \$34,698.00 GIC maturing on Feb 08, 2017 be re-invested for a five-year term at the best rate available at the time of investment.

Dave Morris/Sheila McKibbin – Carried

**Motion** – That the interim payment of \$18,890.84 from the estate of Alexander Ferguson be released to Church Council for use without restrictions upon receipt, in accordance with the terms of the will. In addition, when the final settlement of the estate is received (estimated at approximately \$332.00) it is also released to Church Council for use without restrictions.

Dave Morris/Deb Wycherley – Carried

**Motion** – That the final settlement of the estate of William Thompson (\$1866.00 received in August 2016) be released to Church Council for use without restrictions in accordance with the terms of the will.

Jed Drew/Dale Springer – Carried

**Motion** – That the bequest of \$1,000.00 from the estate of Louise Johnson may be released to Church Council for use without restrictions, upon receipt in accordance with the terms of the will.

Jed Drew/Dale Springer – Carried

**Next Meeting** The next meeting will be called at the discretion of the Chair.

**Adjournment:** Meeting Adjourned at 10:20 am

Minutes Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ Jed Drew, Secretary

Minutes Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ John Somerville, Chair

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

Issuer	Maturity	Amount	Interest	Investment Type	Source of Funds
HSBC Bank	02/08/17	\$34,698.00	2.70%	GIC	F. Pressey
Home Equity	02/12/18	\$34,000.00	2.45%	GIC	F. Pressey
Concentra	02/12/19	\$63,200.00	2.70%	GIC	F. Pressey
Concentra	02/10/20	\$34,000.00	2.08%	GIC	F. Pressey
National Bank	02/09/21	\$34,000.00	2.26%	GIC	F. Pressey
<b>Total Invested</b>		<b>\$199,898.00</b>	Interest paid annually. Electronic Funds Transfer to St. Paul's Operating Account at Royal Bank		

Issuer	Maturity	Amount	Interest	Investment Type	Source of Funds
BNS	01/20/18	\$50,883.96	1.69%	GIC	Dr. Alexander
<b>Total Invested</b>		<b>\$50,883.96</b>	Interest paid annually by cheque.		

<b>Grand Total Invested</b> (sum of all accounts)	<b>\$250,781.96</b>	All investments are CDIC Insured.			
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#### 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.

#### ADDITIONAL INFO:

1. Received notice on April 27/16 that 1/15 share of entire estate of Alexander Ferguson (died Mar 21/16) bequeathed to St. Paul's for general purposes.

2. Early Aug/16 –Received \$1186.00 residual from William Thompson estate. Church Treasurer deposited in current account at Royal Bank pending disposition determination by Trustees. Trustees released to Church Council on 12/11/16 for unrestricted use.

3. Nov 24/16 – Received notice from lawyer handling Alexander Ferguson estate that initial payout will be \$18,890.84. Waiting receipt of funds. Final holdback of approximately \$332 per share to be distributed in 2017 once 2016 tax claim has been processed. Trustees released total amount to Church Council on 12/11/16 for unrestricted use upon receipt.

4. Dec/16 – Received notice of \$1,000.00 bequest from estate of Louise Johnson. Trustees released to Church Council on 12/11/16 for unrestricted use upon receipt.

Dates shown are: Month/Day/Year

Updated as of: 12/20/16

## Manse Repair Report

## **MEMBERSHIP, FELLOWSHIP AND CARE COMMITTEE ~ Jed Drew**

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As the name so clearly indicates, the MFC Committee has three principal areas of focus: membership, fellowship and care.

The committee is responsible for the maintenance and update of the Membership Roll of the church. This roll forms the basis for which we pay our annual assessment to Oxford Presbytery. Thankfully, the members of the 2015 committee completed a major review and update of the roll so there was no significant activity required in this respect in 2016.

MFC is engaged in two recurring fellowship initiatives. First, the committee prepares the schedule for the weekly coffee service following each worship service. As well, the committee sponsored the series of card parties (court whist) held each month from January to April. Following a scheduled break during the summer, plans were in place to resume on a monthly basis starting in September. As with so many other activities these planned events were cancelled due to the flood!

With respect to care, MFC will assist in finding rides for those who need transportation to attend worship services. Finally, the committee provides appropriate commemorative cards for those celebrating significant birthdays and anniversaries.

Jed Drew

## **MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT ~ 2016**

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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 charge 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.

As of January 1, 2016, St. Paul's had a staff of 6 people. There were namely:

Rev. Mark Ferrier - Full time ordained 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 continued to provide spiritual leadership in his role as full time ordained clergy until his death in May 2016.

Karen Hodges has continued to carry on with the programmes for the Sunday School and PA days. Her ongoing commitment to the Children's programming makes for continued success. Thank you for your work with the youngest folk of St. Paul's.

Helen Loehndorf is an extremely conscientious employee who works diligently to complete all those tasks, as an Administrative Assistant, that make the office function smoothly and efficiently. The M and P continue to monitor her work load which at times is very heavy. Well done Helen and thank you sincerely for all you do!!

Floyd Marshall and Ron Stafford work as a team to share the tasks of the Custodian. They share the necessary tasks and work diligently 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 demonstrated in the weekly anthems. Outstanding work Shelley and many thanks for your dedication to your position.

The previous five paragraphs outline the tasks for the staff in a "normal year". The year 2016 was normal for the months of January February and March. Even in the first three months of the year we witnessed Rev. Mark's health decline. Then on Easter Sunday March 27, during the service he became very ill. During April and until mid-May he was in and out of hospital and his health declined rapidly. He passed away on May 20. That was indeed a shock to all. As a team we continued to assist/support his family with the completion of all paper work that was required for completing his estate business.

St Paul's is very privileged and fortunate to have two Retired Clergy -VAM's (Voluntary Associate Ministers)- Rev. Pat Cook and Rev. Maurice Francis who together with many Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL) immediately volunteered stepping in to help us adjust and move ahead. Effective July 1, Rev. Pat was appointed full time until June 30, 2017 to fill the vacancy left by Rev. Mark's death. This allowed the congregation of St. Paul's to adjust, to complete the profiles necessary and to begin to search for new clergy. We settled into the summer schedule and all seemed almost "normal".

In mid-July St. Paul's began a series of misfortunate happenings that a clergy friend described as St. Paul's experienced a "Job Year during 2016". As Job was tested with trials and temptations so St. Paul's was tested with a series of problems and circumstances. Like Job we worked our way through each, and continued to solve each while working together as in a "family". There was the flood in July causing three staff to be relocated and work in less than ideal situations for about 5 months. Helen, Karen and Rev. Pat got "new" work areas and at the same time kept business running almost as usual. Then Rev. Pat had some personal health issues and began working when her health permitted. Rev Maurice filled in with help from many LLWL. Again - we continued on. Karen had minor surgery; Floyd injured his shoulder and was not able to work. Ron filled in with additional hours until mid-September when he was involved in a major car accident and off for many months. Fortunately, he progressed well but required much time to convalesce. (On Sunday December 18, Ron was in worship. Smiling as usual we were all thrilled to have him there. Hoping to get the doctor's permission to begin to put weight on his leg and ankle by the end of December he has made a miraculous recovery.) Floyd returned to work but was not able to lift; a temporary worker was hired to assist with snow removal. Helen's father passed away meaning her mother needed special care and attention. We moved into the Christmas Season but no cantata since we did not return to the sanctuary until Nov.27. As you read this summary of events, it is necessary to reiterate that we have amazing staff. There are all dedicated individuals who work diligently to complete the day to day tasks that many of us just take for granted. We are indeed fortunate to have these employees in addition to all the many volunteers, retired people and LLWL's who have helped us throughout the year. Many, many thanks to all!! All of us look forward to 2017 when "life" at St. Paul's, we hope will return to "normal".

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 serve on the M and P Committee.

Karen Helsdon/Mary Anne Silverthorn - Co-chairs

Brad Bennett, Deb Beres, Norma Collis, and David Morris - Committee members

### **CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT & SUNDAY SCHOOL ~ Chair: Brenda Marshall**

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The Christian Development and a 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 2015-2016. We averaged 15-19 registrants per day. All the children have a great day and look forward to returning for the next one. We want to thank Avondale for accommodating us for September, October and November while we were under construction.

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

## **Sunday School**

In September, we held a graduation for our Sunday School children. We graduated 3 children from our Children's class to our new Tweens class and 2 children from our Toddler class to our Children's class.

This year the Sunday school children are studying The Life of Jesus, from his Birth through his childhood to his Disciples and his teachings. We have three classes, our new Tweens class ages 10-12 age group taught by Karen Hodges, our 5-9 age group taught by 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 in our play based class room with music and play, taught by Janet Van Hoeve and Brenda Marshall. The nursery for under two year old's is still available.

It has been a challenge with available space with our Sunday School under construction, first meeting in back of the Rotunda over the summer and in the Banquet Hall to the end of the year. The children and the teachers will be glad to be back in our class rooms.

## **Activities**

We had another busy year starting with hosting the Pancake Dinner then a well-attended Hot Dog Sunday. We held our annual Sunday School picnic inside in the Banquet Hall at the end of June and it was well attended. Our Sunday School held their Christmas program December 18<sup>th</sup> in the evening and it was very well attended. Thank you to all of our participants, the children worked hard. Our Sunday School donated used toys and books for our Rummage table for the Frosty Fair Bazaar.

The Christian Development Committee under the leadership of Karen Hodges has started a Youth Group that meets every other Wednesday at the Upper Deck from 7:00-8:30 pm. We hope to have a short Biblical lesson and work on a craft or games. It is off to a slow start but we plan to keep trying.

## **Future**

We are continuing with PA Days. 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.

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**

The Bible Study group continues to be a warm and caring group enjoying fellowship around the Word of God. During 2016 we met 18 times with an average attendance of 8 men and women. Throughout the year we have been looking at the teachings of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Each gathering includes a prayer time as well as study and support for one another.

Ruth Francis



## **COMMUNITY KITCHEN 2015/2016 ~ Laurie Drew, Coordinator**

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We finished last season of the Community Kitchen on April 30, 2016. During the course of the twenty-nine weeks we prepared and served dinners, we served 1,239 dinners, not counting feeding the volunteers and the numbers of meals we sent home with our guests for absent family members or for later consumption.

Following is the abbreviated financial report for 2015/2016:

Total Income:	\$4,379.30
Total Expense	<u>6,532.52</u>
Total Loss	(\$2,153.22)
Cost per meal served:	\$5.27

We all wish to thank all of our contributors - both those of the church and those of the community at large. It is because of this generosity that we can look forward to helping people again this year, in spite of our current difficulties!

I also wish to thank all of my enthusiastic volunteers. We couldn't do it without you.

Laurie Drew

Coordinator, Community Kitchen at St. Paul's

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE ~ Dave Morris, Chair**

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The Property Committee has the responsibility of general oversight of the Church edifice and grounds delegated to it by the Trustees and serves as the working arm of the Trustees. Duties include maintaining physical condition of the building, grounds and contents, collaborating with appropriate groups in maintaining property and inventory. Other duties include developing a five- year maintenance program as well as a list of all physical assets, maintaining building security and safety, submitting all fund raising plans to Church Council and arranging volunteer work parties.

On Sunday, July 10th of this year, the Church was hit with a flood caused by a plumbing leak in a second-floor bathroom of the Friendship wing. A water feed line into a toilet had burst. This leak ran for about 20 hours until it was discovered and flooded the first floor and basement of the Friendship Wing. Fortunately, Doreen Smith was in the building early Monday morning and discovered the catastrophe. Prompt work by the local Service Master firm had clean up started within the hour but took the better part of July to complete the Emergency work.

Service Master was awarded the Restoration work by the Insurance Company which was extensive. All flooring in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor was destroyed as well as extensive drywall from wicking of the water. Some furniture was damaged and deemed requiring replacement. Basement damage included ceilings, drywall, lighting and contents. It was estimated that the volume of water involved was equivalent to a residential swimming pool.

During the Restoration Work, church services were held in the Banquet Hall and eventually moved back to the Sanctuary in December. Although the Sanctuary was not damaged, access to the Sanctuary was restricted by construction.

It is anticipated that total damages will be in excess of \$200,000 with all but \$2500 being covered by insurance. Work should be completed by the end of January, 2017.

As part of the Restoration work, since all walls were being painted in the Friendship Wing as part of the Insurance work, with the exception of the Meeting Room, the UCW and AOTS jointly funded the painting of this room at a cost of \$535.

Special thanks to the Property Committee as well as the Adoc Restoration Committee representing other effected Committees for their work in dealing with this matter. Restoration Committee members were John Sommerville (Trustees), Brian Clark (Church Council) Reg Butcher (Property), Laurie Drew (Community Kitchen) Doreen Smith (Finance) Margo Leachman (Worship), Esther Sol (UCW) and Dave Morris, Committee Chair. A special thanks to all of the Staff who persevered in temporary quarters off of the Banquet Hall up until January of 2017. As well, thank-you to the Congregation and Ministry Team who embraced the temporary sanctuary in the Banquet Hall and in fact flourished.

The other major property matter dealt with was the issue of funding the painting of the upper external Church Metal fascia. An estimate of \$28,000 tax included had been obtained and reported to Church Council to carry out this badly needed work that has been deferred from previous years. Council, upon recommendation from the Committee, has included this project in an overall Fund Raising Campaign which includes the repairing of the Pipe Organ. It is hoped this work can be carried out in the summer of 2017.

Thanks to all of the staff for their flexibility this year in dealing with all that has happened at the Church. A special blessing that Ron Stafford is recovering well, and our prayers that he can return to the custodial staff soon.

Thanks to all of the Property Committee members- Margaret Meerveld, Ron Stafford, Bob Jenney, Barb Aubrey, Colleen Martin, Reg Butcher – for their support and diligence.

Dave Morris, Chair

#### **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ~ FRAN BELL, LAURIE DREW, SHEILA MCKIBBIN**

*“Whatever your hand finds to do, do as it with all your might.” Ecclesiastes 9:10*

**Stewardship is what we do with all that God Has given us, all the time.**

Our commitment to the National Mission and Service Fund of the United Church totalled 33,039, including \$5000 from the UCW. In addition, there were supra gifts to the Fort McMurray Relief, the Syrian Refugee Relief, and the Spare Change for World Change.

The special offerings supported the following projects:

Camp Tanner, Canadian Foodgrains, Community Kitchen, Domestic Abuse Service Oxford (DASO), Helping Hands Food Bank, Salvation Army Tillsonburg, Sakura House Oxford, United Church of Canada World Development Fund. The amounts for each are in the financial statement.

The guest speakers for the Stewardship Worship Service on April 10<sup>th</sup> were Laurel Kinney from First St. Andrews United Church in London and Linda Woods from Wesley-Knox United Church in London. They presented the Bread Not Stones initiative which targets Child Poverty In Canada. The Poverty Dolls made by our UCW were on the Communion Table and at the front of the church.

Volunteers from St. Paul's participated in a number of community projects: financial support for the Back to School project jointly sponsored by the United Way of Oxford and the Salvation Army; the Celebrate Tillsonburg display at the Town Center Mall to help communicate our work in the community; and assistance with the Christmas Hamper project.

St Paul's continues to offer space for several community groups. This year with ongoing renovations assistance was giving in finding alternative accommodations.

Canadian Tire money is collected for Camp Tanner needs. Used stamps are saved for Leprosy of Canada. Campbell soup labels assist the World Mission of the Deaf. The last Sunday of each month food is collected for the Helping Hands Food Bank.

Throughout the year, the work of the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada was promoted in the bulletin with MINUTES for Mission and Snippets for Mission.

Great appreciation is extended to all who continue to tirelessly offer their time and talents to serve God through serving others.

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#### **ST. PAUL'S ARCHIVES ~ Marion Hevenor, Archivist**

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The land where the present church is was a gift of the late George Tillson. The cornerstone was laid May 27, 1867.

On January 12, 1912 the first church was burned late at night. The temperature was 32 degrees below freezing. Two fire hydrants were frozen as were the fire hoses, very little was saved.

L. A. Weatherwax, a fireman and church members crawled through the window of the minister's vestry and saved the communion set (only the pitcher remains) and some music which was used for some time.

At the time of the fire the church was known as the Methodist Church of Tillsonburg changing to St. Pauls Methodist Church in 1917. (St. Pauls without an apostrophe) In 1925 it was changed to St. Paul's United Church.

The usual pictures and memorabilia have been placed in the archives.

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#### **ST. PAUL'S SOUND SYSTEM ~ Bill Welsh**

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The sound operators have had another busy year. Assisting with funerals, weddings, weekly church services, specials events and concerts.

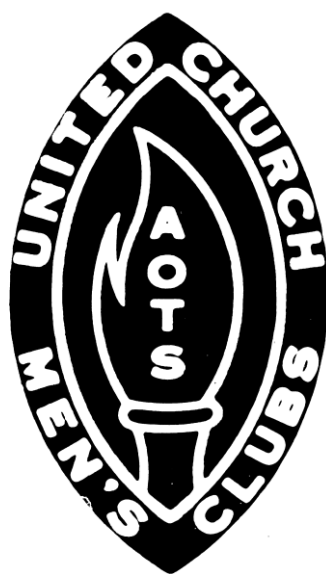
We are excited about our new sound system and all of its special capabilities.

Special thanks to Harvey Jones, Bill Epple and Bill Welsh.

We thank Bill Welsh for his dedication over the past twelve years as he retires.

To start the New Year we do have two volunteers - if you would like to join the team, please let us know. Training will be provided.

# A.O.T.S. Men's Club



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

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Our plan for the Officers of AOTS has continued for 2016 the same as for 2015. So Dave, Harley and Maurice have continued to share leading meetings and keeping Minutes.

At our January Breakfast meeting, Robyn Fox from The Oxford County Alzheimers Society was our guest speaker. In February we heard from John Klein Geltinks about Operation Sharing. In March we concentrated on the Spaghetti Dinner which was a success once again. Our March guest was Bruce Christie talking about Life-Line. In April we scratched the April Breakfast in favour of attending Round Up at Jackson's Point. Five attended Round Up this year. Round Up is the Annual get together of AOTS Clubs across Ontario. Members come from places like Trenton, Sarnia, North Bay, New Market and Elliot Lake. We gather for fine food and fellowship. Our guest speaker was Jim McKibbon from Toronto talking about how the future of the UCC might look.

In May we visited the Railway Museum in St. Thomas. In June we Golfed then followed up with our annual BBQ at the home of Dave and Dag Morris. After our summer break, on September 18, we served up a tasty Chicken BBQ hosted by our sister Congregation Avondale United. This came about because of the flood at St Paul's in early July leaving our kitchen facilities unusable. This turned out to be a great opportunity for the two congregations to do a joint venture. It is hoped we may do it again next year. In October we took a Bus trip to St. Jacobs Market, had lunch at Crossroads restaurant near Elora, concluding with a visit to the Mennonite Museum in St Jacobs. Our year wrapped up with our annual Church Service November 13. Our Guest preacher was Rev. Debra Hinksman, a new resident of T burg connecting with St. Paul's.

We had brunch after at St John's Anglican Church provided by Dave Beres.

### **We sponsored projects:**

Junior Ball, Upper deck, Camp Tanner and the Sea Scouts. We also donated to Alzheimer's & Operation Sharing.

Submitted by  
Rev. M. Francis, Co-President

# A.O.T.S. Men's Club 2016 Financial Report

<b>Opening Balance</b>		<b>\$ 639.35</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Chicken BBQ	2,444.00	
Spaghetti Dinner	1,163.00	
Breakfast Meetings	202.00	
Membership Dues	<u>320.00</u>	
		4,129.00
<b><u>Expense</u></b>		
Bank Charges	27.50	
Oxford City Alzheimer Ass	100.00	
Operation Sharing	100.00	
T'burg Minor Ball	300.00	
Camp Tanner	300.00	
Upper Deck - YFC	300.00	
T'burg Sea Scouts	<u>300.00</u>	
Donations	1,400.00	
Fundraising	1,418.83	
AOTS Sunday	185.00	
Video Camera	37.23	
Round-up	43.77	
Breakfast	97.00	
UCW/Kitchen Supplies	<u>75.00</u>	
		3,284.33
<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b>\$ <u>1,484.02</u></b>



2016 ..... A year to remember:

In early May we were saddened by the loss of our dedicated Minister Rev. Mark Ferrier.

Then came early July and "The Flood" our whole church was affected by a water leak that damaged all of the upstairs except the Sanctuary and meeting room. Down-stairs our main kitchen, bathrooms and multi - purpose rooms all required major repairs. Service Master moved in and we began the slow recovery.

To add to our woes in Sept both of our custodians Floyd and Ron were injured. Ron, who sustained severe injuries in a car accident. Both are recovering and we are thankful for their return to better health.

Despite these trials U.C.W. carried on.

In early January we started the "Bread not Stones" Project with a workshop and education session. (See outreach for details)

Installation of U.C.W. executive was conducted by Rev. Ferrier on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

March saw the return of our successful 3<sup>rd</sup> musical concert. Thanks to Thelma and her many reliable friends.

In May, our Geranium Coffee Break and bake sale showed a prosperous result. This event has been expanded to include sale of flowering plants, crafts, and knitting. Thanks to coordinators Laura, Shirley, Sheila and Margot.

May 29<sup>th</sup> we celebrated U.C.W. Sunday with Starr Ferris as our guest speaker, ably assisted by Rev. Pat Cook.

Summer arrived and as usual some U.C.W. members were able to attend several presbyterial events. We were also able to assist camp Tanner with a Sunday meal.

The Frosty Fair Bazaar was a slightly smaller attraction but proved very profitable. Thanks again to Laura, Shirley, and Jean. Way to go ladies!!

Two General meetings were held during the year, one in April and one in December. Thanks to our very capable program committee these were enjoyed by everyone. Our December meeting was held at Avondale and we were joined by several members of their group.

Throughout the year U.C.W. participated in local outreach by providing funeral lunches, catering for special occasions, supplying lunch after Lenten service at our church. We continue to support the Leprosy Mission by collecting used stamps as well as Campbell's labels for support of school for the deaf.

I would like to extend a very heartfelt thanks to all of our St Paul's staff and volunteers for their many contributions to our activities and fund raising ventures. We thank Helen for her assistance with the making of tickets, posters and notices, the custodians for their help moving furniture and cleaning for our events. We especially appreciate Shelley for her contribution of music when needed. Lastly, we thank the volunteers who assist with sound and multi-media.

Also we thank the members of St. Paul's for their attendance and support of our events and many projects.

At this time, I need to express my personal thanks to my very capable executive who has supported me during this year. For all you do for U.C.W. and the women of our church, you make it possible to fulfil our purpose of witness, study fellowship and service.

We still have 2 units which meet each month except during July and August. Unit 1 meets on the 4th Monday of the month and Unit 6 on the 4th Wednesday. Our executive meets on the 1st Monday of the month @1 p.m. to plan and conduct the business of the U.C.W.

I wish to thank every member of U.C.W. for their constant and every-ready assistance when needed. And I would extend a warm welcome to any of the church ladies to join us for a meeting or as a member.

I look forward to a very interesting and rewarding 2017 with Margot as our president of U.C.W.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at our General Meeting I was honoured and humbled by the gift of a Life membership pin and certificate. I wish to express my very personal appreciation of this honour to all the ladies of U.C.W. Thank you everyone - especially the Executive who have given me unconditional support and guided me with their wisdom for my two years as President.

Blessings to all, Esther

## **2016 REPORT FOR CHURCH IN COMMUNITY**

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January 2016 saw our U.C.W. as a whole embrace the "Bread not Stones" Project. This National initiative required us to participate in a workshop organized by Karon Harris and Mary Johnson. The workshop was led by Linda Woods and Laurel Kenny, the co- chairs of the Middlesex U.C.W. for the project. We learned the art of making "Poverty Dolls" the symbol of hope to prevent child poverty in Canada. Thanks to many ladies we made 32 lovely dolls.

In Oct 2016, U.C.W. did a presentation for our town council and presented each member with a choice of their doll. In November, the London contingent of U.C.W. travelled to Queens Park to do a presentation and give each member of Ontario Legislature a Poverty Doll.



Each Poverty Doll represents a child living in Poverty in Canada The hope of U.C.W. is that by making elected officials aware of these children we can improve their status. Children Living in Poverty and their families need.

1. Affordable housing
2. Nutritious meals each day
3. Affordable child care
4. A living wage.

The reference for this project is Mathew 7:9 - If a child asks for Bread who among us would give that child a stone.

Other outreach Services included participation in World Day of Prayer in March.

Entertainment at Maple Manor in April and home baked cookies delivered to our shut-ins at Christmas time.

We also provided lunches for families following funerals and memorial services until the flood in the summer changed things. Some funerals were held at different locations due to restoration going on at our church.

Submitted by Karon Harris Lynda Atkinson and Esther Sol

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### **2016 PROGRAMME REPORT~ Fran Bell, Shirley Godfree and Sheila McKibbin**

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The committee arranged the following events:

Marcy Stocking, a Domestic Abuse Worker from Domestic Abuse Services Oxford, was the guest speaker at the April 11<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. Items were donated by UCW members to support the program at DASO.

Due to the ongoing Renovations at St Paul's, as a result of the flood in July, the UCW held the General meeting at Avondale United Church on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00p.m. Members of St Paul's staff and Avondale UCW joined our UCW for dessert and worship. The worship service was based on an Advent Lighting Service created by a women's group in Corner Brook Newfoundland.

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

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Women of St. Paul's have been organized at least since 1881. The two main groups were the Women's Missionary Society and the Women's Association. Over the years' new groups were formed which caused overlapping of membership within the groups.

In 1962 the women of the United Church of Canada became the United Church Women as it is in St. Paul's today. At present, we have two units - one meeting in the afternoon and one in the evening.

Histories and pictures of part years are kept in the Archives Room.

Marion Hevenor.

## **LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT ~ Doreen Smith**

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In 2016 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, 2016             | - | Oxford Presbyterial 54 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting<br>St. David's United Church Woodstock<br>Theme Speaker: Phyllis Buchner<br>Theme: "It only takes a Spark" |
| April 4, 2016 -6 p.m.        | - | Spring Event at Embro United Church<br>A dessert Meeting   |
| April 16, 2016               | - | London Conference U.C.W. Annual Gathering<br>Spruce United Church, Chatham   |
| May 1, 2 &3 2016             | - | Westminster Weekend at the Stoneridge Inn<br>London  |
| June 13, 2016                | - | Oxford Presbyterial Day of Retreat<br>Ingersoll Seniors Centre, Ingersoll<br>Speaker: 2 Speakers<br>Topic: "It Only Takes a Spark"                             |
| July 16, 2016                | - | Summer Event<br>Siloam United Church, London<br>Speaker: Rev Maya Lansdell   |
| October 24 - 2016<br>11 a.m. | - | UCW Fall Event-Pot luck<br>Hickson United church<br>Speaker: Oxford Presbytery<br>Reporting on our Syrian Family   |
| January 18, 2017             | - | 54 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Oxford Presbyterial<br>Avondale United Church, Tillsonburg   |

## **U.C.W. UNIT 1 ~ Thelma Hadwen**

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Unit 1 - U.C.W. met for nine meetings in 2016. We are a small unit and have regular members who pay a membership fee and support financially the Grandmothers To Grandmothers program directed by the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

In addition, we have associate members who pay no fee. These members were formerly active but due to age or relocation to Health Care facilities or whose physical disabilities prevent them from attending our meetings.

At the end of the year we had 12 regular members and seven associate members.

In January, we had a two-part program half dealing with the Bread Not Stones program and including our participation in the Poverty Dolls; and second half a discussion on the future of U.C.W. and the changes that will take place over the next few years.

The February meeting - 'You Are What You Eat' was a presentation on the Nutritional needs of Seniors in order to maintain this group at an optimum level of physical and mental health.

In March - Richard Lucas spoke to our group about the Bernardo Boys - actually the Bernardo Children. Both Richard and family members of those attending are descended from Bernardo children and there were pictures, factual information, memorabilia and a lively discussion period.

A visit to the Cup and Cake for a luncheon meeting was the format for our April meeting. After lunch we returned to the Church for a business meeting and a social time over tea.

In May, we journeyed to Harvest Retirement Centre for our meeting. Dianne Parnell led our worship and read an inspiring story. Noreen Cooper led us in a sing-song accompanied by Dianne at the piano. Thelma then read a short bio on Queen Elizabeth II who was celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Doreen Dedrick and Sheila White then hosted us a delicious lunch prepared by Harvests Chef. (We do enjoy our food and conversation)!

In June, we met at Thelma's home for our picnic in the Sunroom. Lunch was served followed by a program on The Importance of Laughter. The proposed games turned into a discussion about "Old Tillsonburg" with input by long-time residents of the town and questions by relative newcomers - lots of laughter during this period.

July and August - there were no meetings.

On Labour Day, September 5 we again met at Harvest for a time of fellowship and a chance to say Farewell to Noreen Cooper who due to a change in circumstances was moving to Viva Retirement Centre in Mississauga. We were sorry to see her go and know she will have a lot to deal with in her new situation. We were treated to a delicious lunch by Harvest - Our thanks to Karen Roher and the kitchen staff!

On September 26, we welcomed Heide Van Riesen of Erie View Mennonite Church (Port Rowan) who helped spearhead and organize the Syrian Refugee Family sponsorship to Canada by her church. The family consists of the parents and 5 children; and they arrived on December 28, 2015 at Pearson International. Heide spoke of the organization of lodging, clothing etc. before their arrival and the many hurdles they have encountered over the year - learning English is not so easy for a start! Heide answered many questions - there was great interest by our membership.

On October 24, the worship and program was a Service of Remembrance for the service men in World War I – W.W. II – Korean War and other conflicts in which Canada has been involved. Both those who gave their lives for the cause; and those who returned to face the problems of readjustment caused by any war, as well as the service men who continue to serve for our protection. Two poems: Flanders Fields from W.W. I and High Flight from W.W. II were read.

Following this service we had a Do You Remember quiz – facts about Canada. Our memories are very good and only a few questions required an assist.

Both September 26 and the October 24 meetings were held at Thelma's home due to the Flood and renovations ongoing at our church.

On November 28 we held our last meeting of the year at Harvest Retirement Centre where we had a catered Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings prepared by Harvest's chef. In attendance at this meeting was Esther Sol who was finishing a 2 year stint as President of the UCW; Margot Leachman – President Elect for 2017-2018; Helen Loehndorf, Church Administrative Assistant and several other guests.

Dianne Parnell who had made all arrangements for this meeting then conducted the worship program and sing-song of carols and Christmas favourites.

Two members of our group – Ruth Rabb, Secretary and Doreen Dedrick, Treasurer had both expressed their desire to retire from their positions and they were thanked for their year of dedicated service. Two other members volunteered to take over the positions: Peg Simmons as Secretary and Marlen Gilbert, Treasurer - our sincere thanks to them as well.

The rest of our Executive remains unchanged in 2017 with the addition of Dianne Parnell as program assistant.

Some of our members attended the two General Meetings and helped with U.C.W. projects throughout the year.

It should be noted that appropriate worship services and prayers are an integral part of each program.

My sincere thanks to everyone who took part in programs, provided lunch and helped in so many ways – God Bless You All.

Thelma Hadwen, Group Leader

Transferred to other facilities:

Noreen Cooper – Viva, Mississauga

Sheila White – Parkwood Institute, London

Deceased: Louise Johnson

Hazel Riley

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

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Unit Six members enjoyed a year of interesting programming presented by committee groups, over the nine months we met during the year. On four different occasions, the ladies enjoyed a meal and shared in a time of fellowship.

The January committee invited Fire Chief Jeff Smith to talk about fire safety and the importance of Emergency Preparation.

February meeting was the "Story on Hymns," and the ladies enjoyed hearing the origin and singing five favourites.

With Easter being early, the March committee presented an Easter program entitled "Beneath the Cross of Jesus."

Rayburn Lansdell, leader of Upper Deck (since 1994) was our guest speaker in April. Rayburn runs the Tillsonburg Youth for Christ program at the Upper Deck and showed us video clips and gave us information about the running of the Upper Deck, during a question and answer period.

In May, Abby Mallot, a kinesiologist from Stonebridge Community Services gave an overview of the services she offered. She had the ladies participate in a short exercise program.

In June, the ladies enjoyed a movie at the library entitled "The Grand Seduction."

Due to our flood crisis, in September, the ladies met in the Banquet Hall and presented a program on the theme "Change."

Our October speaker was Dr. Supriya Singh, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year orthopedic intern, who has spent time and helped youth in Tanzania. She is the recipient of "The Global Health Award."

In November, the Unit members met at the Cup and Cake where everyone enjoyed a lovely dinner and enjoyed a program on "A Gift of Ravioli."

It has been an informative year where a good time has been enjoyed by all. We look forward to 2017, as we share in a time of fellowship with one another. All church ladies are welcome to attend. Our meeting is the fourth Wednesday evening of the month.

## ST. PAUL'S U.C.W. 2017 EXECUTIVE

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Past President	Esther Sol	519-842-7102
President	Margot Leachman	519-842-5804
Vice President		
Recording Secretary	Nancy Fitzpatrick	519-842-8154
Corresponding Secretary	Jean Mills	519-842-8543
Treasurer	Mary Hessler	519-409-0716
Assistant Treasurer	Irene Gillespie	519-842-3858
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
	Doreen Smith	519-842-3190
Social Convener	-----	
Church in Society	-----	
World Outreach	-----	
Archives	Marion Hevenor	519-842-2469
Auditor	Doreen Smith	519-842-3190

### UNIT LEADERS:

**Unit 1 leader:** Thelma Hadwen  
**Assistant:**

**Secretary** – Peg Simmons  
**Treasurer** – Marlen Gilbert

**Unit 6 leader:** Jean Mills  
**Assistant:** Laura Mahoney

**Secretary** – Mary Johnson  
**Treasurer** – Shirley Godfree

### UNIT MEETINGS:

Unit 1:	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of the month	2:00 p.m.	Friendship Room
Unit 6:	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month	7:00 p.m.	Friendship Room

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### 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.