



St. Paul's United Church

2020
Annual Report

**88 Bidwell Street
Tillsonburg ON
N4G 3V2**

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NOTE: Financial information has been removed from this report for website copy.

“WHO WE ARE”

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. Karlene’s Email:
revkarlene@execulink.com
Church Email:
stpaulsunited@execulink.com
Website: stpaulsunitedchurch.net
Telephone: (519) 688-0011

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER ~ Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer

My Dear St. Paul's Family,

Greetings! By God's grace, I write to you as we come to the end of a very long year and the uncertainty of yet another. As we look back, we reflect; as we look forward, we look to God in hope and sing lustily: -

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see: all I have needed thy hand hath provided--Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

We have often heard the term "Hindsight is 20/20 which may be defined as "looking back at a situation or an event and having a clearer understanding of it and how things could have been done better."

Some may say that 2020 handled us rough and if we knew then what we know now, things could have been better. I would say I don't necessarily agree, for through it all God was gracious, we exercised ministry in new ways and probably touched more lives that we have ever done in the past. Let me share some highlights from my lens.

Worship Events

While we were not able to meet in the sanctuary for most of the year, we experienced many (I hope) uplifting services.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| * Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter | * Thanksgiving |
| * Mothers' & Fathers' Day | * Breast Cancer Awareness |
| * Camping Sunday | * St Paul's Anniversary |
| * Pentecost | * World Communion |
| * Multiculturism/Canada Day | * Advent Sundays |
| Sunday | * Summer Service in the Park |

We were able to incorporate meaningful Communion Services even if it meant wrestling with pre-package communion cups.

Connecting with our St. Paul's Family

Technology

I remember when I was being interviewed to come to St. Paul's a requirement was that I have some basic computer skills. I am delighted that I am a little better than basic.

- * Between Desmond & I we were able to record and put services on my YouTube channel and as time when on I was able to create a St Paul's

YouTube channel where the services became easily accessible. Thanks to Helen, our office admin, who created links on our web and Facebook page, so persons can easily connect to the channel.

- * I was able to create separate videos for the children so we could share in Children's time.
- * I made one attempt to create a zoom book club read. The response was lackluster. I promise to get together with the two people who actually responded to a very good book that was relevant to the times we are in.
- * I introduced a Wednesday Coffee/Tea time devotional. We were able to do four series: -

Names of God, Fruit of the Spirit, Following Jesus and Advent Musings. We were also able to read through the book of Luke in December

The Children and At Home Folks

- * This time was hard for our kids. Maybe I should say I was missing my hugs. But I found ways of surviving. I sent/did porch drop off on birthdays, back to school packs, Halloween packs and Christmas packs. I did get some hugs and shouts of "Karleneeeee" It was a joyful experience
- * As for the adults, I missed you too. I made over two hundred phone call chats, emails, sent out over three hundred cards between Easter and Christmas. I also had over twenty drop off of flowers on porches. Some I gave love with home cooked meals.

Membership

- * Sadly, there was a decrease in our membership in that some of our members went home to be with their Lord whilst others moved away to be closer to family members.
- * We give thanks that there was also an increase. In the midst of this pandemic season, we able to increase our number by seven. We welcome our new members and give God all the praise.

Thanks

- * To our chair Reg Butcher and Council of 2020, I say thanks, together we have faced rough seas but we made it. With God's help we will continue in His service.
- * To Opening Committee, I could not have done it without you. Whether it was constantly writing and updating protocols or it was asking the health question a million times, you kept going. A big thank you!
- * Thank you to our tech teams - all the projectionists, camera crew, sound crew.
- * Thanks to our support staff: Helen, Karen and Shelley. I look good because of you!

* To Desmond, my rock, I know for us this was a challenging year but with all the sanitizing rounds and keeping me upbeat, together we did it. Your continued love and support strengthen me to carry on.

There is so much more that could be said but pages wouldn't be enough. Every day I rise I pray, "Lord help me be faithful in ministering to your people," and every night as I go to bed, I give God thanks for the journey thus far.

The days ahead look hazy and we feel unsure but we know, We Are Not Alone God is With Us!" I leave you with the words from Isaiah 43:1a -3a

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.
For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior".

Peace & Love,
Rev. Karlene

CHURCH COUNCIL ~ Reg Butcher, Chair

Let me say that the year 2020 started out as any normal year with worship services taking place in our church every Sunday under the leadership and guidance of Rev. Karlene, regular church council meetings, the Annual Congregation Meeting resulting in the congregational approval of the slate of church council executive's, committee member volunteer's, and the approval and passing of St. Paul's United church Annual financial budgets.

Then many things suddenly changed on March 17 when the Premier, the Provincial Government, Antler River Watershed Regional Council, and the Southwestern Ontario Health Authorities put Ontario into a lock down which resulted in the closing of all church's that included St. Paul's.

To maintain some normal aspects of the church we continued the business of church affairs as council members by holding regular monthly meetings via Zoom.

Rev. Karlene made the decision to begin taping her Sunday worship services and bulletins with the help of Desmond from the privacy of her home and then downloading the service each Sunday on YouTube for anyone of our congregation to view.

Families have overwhelmingly contacted the church office and others to express their appreciation for Rev. Karlene's visits to their front porches, the many phone calls that let them know they're not forgotten, and her continued efforts to produce Sunday Service's that can be viewed on YouTube.

Rev. Karlene continued her personal and spiritual support to families by endless phone calls, front porch visits to homes, and her continuing concerns and prayers as support for those during illness's and bereavement.

Our Sunday School children have been supported with lessons each week via YouTube developed by our Sunday school teacher Karen Hodges who also works hard to provide work material and its deliveries to their home.

When some restrictions were eased by the province, a pre-opening committee was formed so that we could re-open our church for Sunday Worship Services only. Important strategies were developed with limited numbers allowed in for worship resulting in 30% of church capacity (50) persons maximum, mandatory pre-registering for attendance to church with names of who would be attending with phone numbers for tracing, and upon arrival at the church entrance temperatures must be taken, health questions asked, escorting to and from pre assigned pews were all implemented.

Our church committees continued to carry out their responsibilities with great success even after the lock down. Their devotion to continuing contact with our families is commendable.

Unfortunately, Covid 19 numbers have been increasing in the Tillsonburg area particularly, and across Ontario which left council and Rev. Karlene great concerns for the safety of our staff and our congregants.

As Chair of St. Paul's United Church and in consultation with Rev. Karlene I made the decision to close the church indefinitely following our December 20th Christmas Sunday.

At the writing of my report our church remains closed and there is an alarming increase in Covid 19 cases in Tillsonburg. Sunday Worship services will continue to be taped and uploaded to You Tube.

There is no question that God has a plan for St. Paul's United Church and our community at large. We continued to trust His judgement and His guidance as we move forward. Don't be discouraged.

Remember at this time to remain home as much as possible, and if you need to venture out please continue to wear your mask, always stay social distanced, and always wash your hands. This pandemic will pass in time.

My thoughts and my prayers are for each of you.
God Bless,

Respectfully submitted,
Reg Butcher- Chair, St. Paul's United Church Council

OPENING THE CHURCH COMMITTEE – Reg Butcher, Chair

At the beginning of 2020 no one would have ever thought this committee would be necessary. We had not heard of COVID 19 until March 17 when all of Ontario went into lockdown—as mandated by the Premier. We were in the midst of a world – wide pandemic! The church building was closed immediately, worship service cancelled and our employees worked from home where appropriate. No one knew how long this would last. By late Spring things had changed slightly and “places of worship” were allowed to open with many restrictions and changes. The Antler River Watershed Regional Council and other agencies mandated if we were considering opening there must be an “opening committee” to establish procedures, write protocols and make any necessary accommodations to the sanctuary to follow the guidelines, restrictions and procedures as outlined by 4 bodies who were in charge of dealing with this pandemic – the Federal and Provincial governments, the Health professional and the United Church of Canada/Antler River Watershed Region.

Committee members named were Reg Butcher – Council Chair/Chair of the committee, Fran Bell, Debbie Beres, Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer, Brenda Marshall, Dave Morris, Desmond Palmer, Mary Anne Silverthorn and Kelly Springer. (Dave Rushton was an original member of the Committee until he resigned, moved and was not replaced).

Introduction and History

1. After much studying the mandates/recommendations from the Federal and Provincial governments, the Health professionals, the United Church and Antler River Watershed (ARW) region, the committee did an onsite visit (June 23) to determine the necessary accommodations that must be completed to meet all requirements prior to the “opening”. The first decision for the committee was -- do we meet in the basement or the sanctuary. There was a lot of discussion about entry, exit, seating, the safety of our employees particularly the Clergy, Director of Music and the Custodian all who would be involved in the service. During this whole discussion we had to keep in mind one of the over all mandates—that of Social distancing (6 feet or 3 meters). It was quickly proposed that we “needed to worship” in the sanctuary.

2. Based on the time required to make the “necessary accommodations” and the availability of products necessary for implementation it was decided

that we postpone the opening until September 13. That date would be dependent on getting products- hand sanitizer plexiglass (if necessary) physical setup of the sanctuary, and all other details we MUST have in place or complete, prior to opening.

3. Another factor we had to consider -- how many people can we legally accommodate for worship. Following the guidelines - the number was determined to be a maximum of 50 people.

4. The following were items that the committee considered - (again following all the mandates and legislation).

a) People needed to pre-register with name and number attending and an arrival time.

b) All attendees would enter by the ramp entrance.

c) Attendance checked according to list of pre-registered and implementation of a tracking system to be completed and files each Sunday indicating attendees present.

d) At the entrance -- Hand Sanitizer will be necessary as each enters, health questions completed.

e) Ushers would seat the person(s). Some seats would not be available; others will be marked where persons will be seated - THIS will follow all the SOCIAL DISTANCING guidelines.

f) Seating would take place from front to back where possible to alleviate people being in contact with one another.

g) Some aisles would not be accessible -- the centre aisle for sure (this will be reserved for Rev. Karlene).

h) No singing — no choir - the digital piano was to be moved to accommodate the mandated 3 meters between Rev. Karlene and Shelley.

i) There would be no bulletins. The order of service etc. would be screened as usual.

j) Offering plates would be positioned at the back of the sanctuary in several locations.

k) Washrooms would be open - however a monitor will allow only one-person entry at a time and a designated person will be assigned for cleaning after each person and this will take place after the person leaves the washroom area.

l) After the service attendees would leave row by row following instructions from the ushers.

m) There would be no snacks/coffee or social time.

n) Attendees would walk directly out of the building. No stopping for a chat. Waving and smiling may be new way to say hi and to greet others. Parking lot meetings are discouraged.

o) There would be signage on the floor for guidance as we move about as well as monitors to assist with check-in seating etc.

***** Each person would need to decide whether they choose to attend worship considering their own health and knowing that everything would be DIFFERENT.

Other general info:

The committee considered: WOULD MASKS WOULD BE MANDATORY? Yes??

The Chair, with his funeral experience and in conversation with officials of surrounding churches suggested the following:

a) a cut off time for admitting people since the entrance procedure takes time.

b) those not pre registered – who just show up--- cannot attend.

We knew:

--- that in the time before “Opening”, the YOUTUBE services would continue. After we “open” for those who choose to stay safe at home the entire service will be on YOUTUBE and/or Live streamed or some other method for distribution early Sunday afternoon. We continue to work on this item since it has involved —checking our present equipment and its capacity etc. -- a long ongoing process continuing as we enter 2021.

The Process and Forward Council approved the plans/recommendations of the Opening Committee at its July meeting and the Committee moved ahead. The pre-opening on September 6 (by invitation only) went well. This day was sort of a test of the set up, etc. etc. At the end of Worship -in a Q and A session, people said they felt safe and comfortable. The next week we opened for worship only and gradually employees returned to work. Things went well. Attendees pre-registered, arrived each week, followed all the protocols including being ushered to assigned seating. There was no singing and Rev. Karlene and the reader both spoke from behind plexiglass which we had installed in front of both the pulpit and the lectern.

The mandated protocols were written and approved by Council at its August meeting. The protocol document was approved with Council knowing that as new regulations/rules (by the Province or Health Region) change the protocols would be amended --- the protocol document will be a “living document” as long as the pandemic continues.

On September 13, we opened for Worship only (no meetings etc. or mid week groups). Zoom meetings became the norm. Each week people pre-registered arrived at their requested time, proceeded through the sanitizing

station, health questions and were then ushered to their designated seat. Services proceeded with projection, music by Shelley (no singing) taping to be on YouTube on Sunday afternoon, -- - people were happy to be present indicating they felt very safe and "well looked after".

In order for worship to be as normal as possible, and since regular committees were not meeting the Opening Committee took on the responsibility to make worship close to normal. The sanctuary was decorated at Thanksgiving, communion elements were prepared, Christmas decorations appeared for Advent, Poinsettia Sunday (COVID style) took place including 48 deliveries to members of our family who needed to know that as strange as the times were—the people of St. Paul's family care deeply about them. Sunday flowers appeared in the sanctuary often. Ongoing comments indicated the attendees much appreciated the "new normal".

By mid December the number of cases of COVID in the Southwestern Ontario Health Region were climbing very quickly – it was scary as the numbers in Oxford climbed daily. We needed to make some tough decisions as the Province hinted there would be another lockdown after Christmas. The Christmas Eve Service was cancelled. On December 20, following conversations with the medical profession, we began taking each attendees temperature as they arrived for worship – just another precaution to make sure we are all safe and HEALTHY. On December 18, the Chair of Council in consultation with others announced that following the December 20 service – our worship services in the sanctuary would be postponed indefinitely. The Provincial lockdown began on December 26. Following all restrictions required Rev. Karlene began taping weekly services in the sanctuary assisted by the 5 people necessary (this is within all restrictions). Each Sunday we have the privilege of attending worship via YouTube and in the safety of our home. Thank you Rev. Karlene and assistants.

When will the "Opening Committee" be allowed to consider reopening for worship in the sanctuary again? When will the lock downs go away? When will we get vaccinated? At the time of writing this report all of these remain unknown. Using some very current and frequent expressions. – stay safe, stay healthy, wear a MASK and practice your "Social Distancing" at all times. When will we SEE each other – only time will tell but we hope soon – during 2021????

The Year 2020--- the implementation of an Opening Committee to deal with the changes necessary for COVID 19 pandemic continues on as we enter 2021.

Respectfully submitted by

Reg Butcher

Chair of Council/The Opening Committee.

2020 ANNUAL MEETING
Date and time to be determined

AGENDA

1. **Lighting of Christ Candle and devotion -Rev. Karlene**
2. **Call to Order** – Reg Butcher, Council Chair
3. **Motion**** to elect - Recording Secretary for this meeting
4. **Motion **** --pursuant to Section 3.7 of the UCC Manual to extend voting privileges to adherents
5. **Motion **** - to approve agenda for February 10, 2020 as circulated (or with additions as necessary).
6. **Motion **** to approve minutes of Congregational Annual meeting - February 2020

REPORTS:

7. Minister's Report -Rev. Karlene
8. Transitions of 2020 - In Memoriam, Confirmations, Baptism and Transfers
9. Council Chair's Report-Reg

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

10. Motion **to approve all 2020 Committee reports as printed.
11. Treasurer's Report – Laurie Drew
2020-Financial Report -Motion to approve **
2021 – Budget ---approved at January 2021 Council
12. **Appointment of Auditor** for 2021 financial records
Motion to appoint **
13. **Nominating Committee Report** – Mary Anne Silverthorn - Motion **
approved 202at December 2020 Council meeting
14. **Confirmation of Trustees – Motion ****
15. **Appointment of Lay Representatives to Antler River Watershed Regional Council** -- Mary Anne
Motion **to appoint – Marianne Ferris/ Mary Anne Silverthorn
16. **New Business-**
17. Next Annual Meeting date --
18. **Motion **** to adjourn
19. **Adjournment, Blessing and Sending Forth** - Rev. Karlene

MINUTES OF 2019 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

1. Opening the Annual Meeting with Scripture and Prayer – Rev Karlene
2. Call to Order
Mary Anne Silverthorn, Council Chair called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.
3. Appointment of Recording Secretary
Motion C19-01 Moved by: Thelma Seconded by: Mary
Resolved, Debbie Beres be appointed Recording Secretary for the February 9, 2020 Congregational Meeting
Carried
4. Extension of Voting Privileges to Adherents
Motion C19-02 Moved by: Jed Seconded by: Sheila
Resolved, pursuant to Section 3.7.2 of the United Church of Canada Manual to extend voting privileges to adherents
Carried
5. Approval of 2019 Agenda
Motion C19-03 Moved by: Dag Seconded by: Maurice
Resolved, the agenda for the 2019 Congregational Meeting be approved as printed and circulated
Carried
6. Approval of Minutes of Congregational Meetings
 - Follow up regarding a new electric sign for front of church
 - Cost is out of our budget reach at this time
 - New letters were purchased and we are satisfied for now with the current sign**Motion C19-04** Moved by: Dave Seconded by: Laurie
Resolved, the minutes of the 2018 Annual Congregational meeting be approved as printed and amended
Carried

MINUTES OF 2019 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

7. Minister's Report – refer to Rev. Karlene's report on page four in 2019 Annual Report.
8. Transitions of 2019: Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals/Memorial Services/Committals & In Memoriam – Refer to pages 13-14 in Annual Report
9. Chair's Report
 - Mary Anne thanked all of the people who regularly take part in the work of our church.
 - We could never accomplish what we do without all of the volunteers.
10. Committee Reports
 - Trustees - Refer to page 18 – 20 for report and page 22 for Investment Summary
 - Property - very close to our goal for the new roof
 - Master working calendar is now outside of the church office to track all events within the church
 - Community Kitchen: Amount spent on meals was five thousand, two hundred and sixty dollars (\$5,260)
 - Stewardship - page 30 should be changed to: "Generous gifts to the M&S Fund this year of twenty-eight thousand nine hundred seventeen dollars and fifty cents (\$28,917.50) AND seven thousand dollars (\$7,000) from the UCW."
 - AOTS – Page 33 should read Larry Oliver, not Larry Rogers

Motion C19-05 Moved by: Laura Seconded by: Brenda
Resolved, 2019 Committee Reports be approved as printed and amended.
Carried

- ## 11. Treasurer's Report
- ### 2019 Financial Report – Ron Wycherley

Motion C19-06 Moved by: Ron
Seconded by: Laurie
Resolved, the 2019 Financial Report be approved as presented in the 2019 Annual Report
Carried

MINUTES OF 2019 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

2020 Budget – Laurie Drew

Motion C19-07 Moved by: Laurie **Seconded by:** Ron
Resolved, the 2020 Budget be approved as printed in the 2019 Annual Report

Carried

2020 M&S Budget – Sheila McKibbin

Motion C19-08 Moved by: Sheila Seconded by: Maida
Resolved, the 2020 M&S Budget of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) be
approved as printed in the 2019 Annual report
Carried

12. Appointment of Auditor for 2020

Motion C19-09 Moved by: Laurie Seconded by: Doreen
Resolved that Paul Hanson be appointed as auditor for 2020, pending availability
Carried

13. Nominating Committee Report

- Mary Anne read the list of committee members for the 2020 council and asked for nominations from the floor for vacant positions. There were none.
- Thank you to Brian Clark for his service as Chair of Council

Motion C19-10 Moved by: Laurie **Seconded by: Brian**
Resolved, the 2020-2021 proposed church council be approved
Carried

14. Confirmation of Trustees

Motion C19-11 Moved by: Ron Seconded by: Carol
Resolved, the 2020-2021 trustees be confirmed as listed in the 2019 Annual Report
Carried

MINUTES OF 2019 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

15. Appointment of Lay Representatives to Antler River Watershed Regional Council

Motion C19-12 Moved by: Jed

Seconded by: Deb

Resolved, the appointment of Doreen Smith and Mary Anne Silverthorn as Lay Representatives to the Antler River Watershed Regional Council be approved.

Carried

16. New Business

- Call to congregation for any new business.
 - There was none.

17. Manse Report and Update – John Somerville, Chair of Trustees

- Manse sold for the full list price of three hundred, thirty-nine thousand dollars (\$339,000) less expenses: real estate fees, legal, etc.
 - Trustees deposited three hundred fourteen thousand, one hundred sixty-six dollars and sixty-five cents (\$314,166.65) to Church bank account.
 - From that, approximately sixty-eight thousand (\$68,000) has to be repaid to the Church Operating account, which covered ongoing repairs to the manse.
 - Approximately two hundred forty-six thousand (\$246,000) will be left to invest. Note: St. Paul's can only spend the interest generated. If further funds are required, the church will have to apply to Antler River Watershed to ask for additional money.
 - Thank you to John, Jed and Dave for the many hours and work to prepare the Manse for sale.
 - Jed discussed the costs and repairs required to ready the Manse for sale i.e., cost of severance of property which was approximately forty-seven thousand dollars (\$47,000)
 - Cup and Cake and St. Paul's signed a mutual release of the lease at the end of December 2019.
 - There were a few Manse expenses in January of approximately nine hundred dollars (\$900) i.e., snow removal and hydro.
 - Laurie gave an updated financial report as at February 7, 2020 showing the inclusion of the funds from the sale of the Manse.

18. Next Annual Meeting Date – TBA

19. Adjournment, Commissioning and Benediction

Motion C19-13

Resolved, the 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Paul's United Church be adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Carried

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

IN MEMORIAM

Marion Hevenor

William 'Bill' Brown

Verna Klaver

Joan Labelle

Arthur (Art) Partlo

Margaret Brown

Audrey Phillips

Bonnie (Yvonne) Baguley

Shirley Patterson*

Anthony Richards*

Ernest Durham*

George Price*

Leslie Anderson*

Shirley Roberts*

Thomas Smith*

Theresa Ann Pick*

* non-members

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

Confirmations

September 20, 2020

Mary Calhoun

Aliyah Helsdon

Isabella Jackson

Isabella Rushton

Emily Wing

BAPTISM

March 8, 2020

Isabella Jackson

TRANSFERS IN

September 20, 2020

Marianne Ferris

October 4, 2020

Mae Moffat

WORSHIP COMMITTEE ~ Laura Mahoney, Chair

The Worship Committee has many volunteers who help to make St. Paul's church services and activities run smoothly. The choir is a wonderful, talented group of dedicated individuals. Our music director and very talented organist Shelley Vermeersch leads this group. They help to make our worship service meaningful. Shelley is on our committee and Carol Crocker is the Choir representative on our committee. Karen Hodges is our secretary and Sunday School Coordinator. Carol Morling arranges for Communion servers. Dag Morris is our representative to Church Council and also part of the Flower Committee. Doreen Smith is the UCW representative, Bonnie Stafford is the sound system representative and Dave Collis is the Messy Church representative. The following individuals are not part of the Worship Committee but play an important role in our church services. Colleen Martin arranges for readers each week, Ron Stafford arranges for ushers, Rev. Maurice and Ruth Francis, Bob and Janet Jenney, John Somerville and Nancy Gowette prepare the elements for Communion and clean up after Communion. It takes many helpers to make our services meaningful. Thank you for your dedication.

The Flower Committee is another group of dedicated individuals who do many tasks that help to beautify our church. Norma Collis is the chair of this committee. She arranges for decorating the church for special occasions and relies on the committee of Anne Beard, Jean Mills, Dag Morris and Ruth Watters for the following: organizing and scheduling the donations of flowers and their distribution after the service; decorating and un-decorating the church for Thanksgiving and Christmas as well as several other special occasions. Thank you for all of your efforts. Again, this year our church was beautifully decorated for Thanksgiving. Thanks go to the Van Hove family for their generous donation of harvest vegetables and flowers and to the volunteers who did the decorating. Arranging for poinsettias is also part of the responsibilities of this committee. Lovely red poinsettias adorned the church again this year at Christmas time. Thank you for your generous contribution Anne Foster and Susan and Jamie Cluett. After the service on December 13 the poinsettias were taken to St. Paul's bereaved and shut-ins. We would also like to thank the individuals and families who gave flower arrangements for our Sunday worship services as well as those who gave monetary donations in memory of loved ones.

Messy Church is another part of the Worship Committee. Norma and Dave Collis have done a remarkable job with this group of enthusiastic individuals.

Baden Powell Sunday was February 16. Members of St. Paul's scouting groups participated in the church service.

Communion was served on the following Sundays: January 5, Epiphany; October 4, World Communion Sunday; November 29, Advent.

Much to our surprise, Covid-19 hit and the church was shut down in March. It remained closed until September. During this time, Rev. Karlene held weekly on-line services from her home that could be viewed on YouTube. When the church reopened in September these on-line services were taped from the sanctuary and continued to be on YouTube for the remainder of the year. Church services were held in the sanctuary from September through December 20. A limited number of persons were in attendance and all Covid-19 safety guidelines were followed. The Christmas Eve Service and December 27 service could be viewed on-line only.

A special thank you goes to Neil Whyte who graciously filled in for Shelley in the month of December.

I would like to thank each Worship Committee member for your dedication and continued support. Many thanks also go to everyone who helped to make St. Paul's a strong community of faith in these difficult times.

Respectfully submitted by
Laura Mahoney, Chair

ST. PAUL'S SENIOR CHOIR ~ Shirley Welsh, President

The choir has been silent since the middle of March due to Covid 19 restrictions.

We are pleased and thankful to have the opportunity to sing along at home as we watch our church services on line.

September we were thankful to receive a donation from the estate of Verna Klaver.

The choir is looking forward to a healthy future when we are able to sing together under Shelley's talented musical direction and accompaniment.

Shirley Welsh
Choir President

ANTLER RIVER WATERSHED REPORT 2020 ~ Mary Anne Silverthorn

At the May 2019 Regional meeting, Rev Karlene was elected to the Executive of ARW and I was elected to the ARW Human Resources (HR) Commission for a two-year term to end at the ARW Regional meeting proposed for May 2021. Since I am a member of the HR Commission, this report will reflect that position.

In June 2019 following the Annual meeting, our work as a Commission began. The Human Resources Commission work is closely related to the work of the former Pastoral Relations Committees when we had Presbyteries. I also am a trained Liaison to work, train and support members of Search Committees when Communities of Faith are seeking clergy. I continue to cover the areas formerly known as the Elgin and Oxford Presbyteries working with about 7 Communities of Faith at this time. My final responsibility with each Community of Faith after they have called/appointed clergy is to share in the formal Covenanting Service. Several of these services are still outstanding due to extenuating circumstances during 2019. In the early fall, I was able to share face to face with a few committees and take part in one Covenanting service practicing social -distancing, wearing a mask, and doing things very differently from usual (whatever that was or will be). At Commission meetings we approve appointments/ calls, appoint Liaisons and approve the licensing or re-licensing of LLWL's following recommendation by the LLWL Resource Team.

One of the areas of responsibilities for the Human Resources Commission is tracking Licensed Lay Worship Leaders (LLWL) for licensing and re-licensing. In order to achieve this task, the HR Commission named a LLWL Resource Team at the beginning of 2020. I was elected Chair of this Team. This Team of 9 consists of some LLWL, some lay and some DLM (Designated Lay Minister) members with Rev. Diane Blanchard as the staff rep also in attendance. We are responsible for recommending to the HR Commission relicensing or licensing for each LLWL. Since this was the first year for this process in the ARW region, we had a large task. In interview teams of 2 people, we interviewed about 55 LLWL's including some who were being licensed for the first time. With the interview process completed, prior to September we staggered the number of years we were relicensing for, allowing for a lesser number of interviews in the coming years. Once the interview process was completed, recommendations for re-licensing were submitted to the ARW Human Resources Commission for approval, certificates were forwarded to the LLWL's and an updated list of available LLWL's was circulated to Communities of Faith for their use. In addition, the LLWL Resource Team is responsible for facilitating communication among LLWL's and Communities of Faith ongoing work for 2021. (FYI - The two

LLWL's from St. Paul's – Fran Bell and Cheryl Buchner were both relicensed for 2 years).

Both the HR Commission and the Resource Team meetings are held monthly. Originally meetings were held face to face in either Chatham or London. Beginning with the April meetings all our meetings are held on Zoom including all the interviews for the LLWL Resource Team candidates seeking relicensing or licensing.

I continue to enjoy my involvement at the Regional level of the United Church. I very much enjoy working with individuals from all corners of the region. However, when the May meeting scheduled for Port Elgin was postponed that was disappointing since those large face to face meetings allows for a great deal of socializing, networking and re-establishing friendships from many years ago. Holding the Annual Meeting by Zoom with approximately 150 people was not the same. It allowed for us to complete the business necessary, hear the reports and elect our officers for the next year however the time for networking and sharing of meals together was missing. We certainly understood we needed to be safe and stay healthy. Financially the cost for the Zoom Annual meeting was very minimal in comparison to other years. What will take place in 2021? Only time will allow us to answer that question.

Even Zoom meetings allow a time for check-in and getting updates and carrying on with all the business of the Region. In light of the lock downs and restrictions for safety reasons all is good if we remain healthy.

During this past year I was appointed a Pastoral Charge Supervisor for a Pastoral Charge involving two Communities of Faith who work both together as a Pastoral Charge and separately as business requires. Pastoral Charge Supervisors are appointed by the Covenanting Commission.

Thank you for the amazing opportunity to serve you and the people of the region.

Report submitted by: Mary Anne Silverthorn

St. Paul's ARW Regional rep

Member ARW -HR Commission

Trained Liaison

LLWL Resource Team – Chair

Pastoral Charge Supervisor

FYI:

The following are the members of the ARW Human Resources Committee – some members are ordained clergy, some DLM, some lay --all elected at the ARW Regional meeting:

Olva Kitchen – Chair

Paul Browning, Jim Drummond, Carol Ferguson, Doreen Hewitson, Norm MacPherson, Beth Parsons, Mary Anne Silverthorn Tracy Wygiera, Rev Diane Blanchard Staff Rep.

The following are the members of the LLWL Resource Team –some are DLM, some lay and some LLWL:

Mary Anne Silverthorn – Chair

Doreen Hewitson – Secretary

Dave Hewitson, Norm MacPherson, Christopher Mortlock, Ian Phillips, Pam Wilcox, Tracy Wygiera, Rev Diane Blanchard Staff Rep.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ~ John Somerville, Chair

On January 31, 2020, the sale of the Manse was completed with a purchase price of \$339,000 and a net \$246,000 after all expenses were deducted. This complex project absorbed the energies of the Trustees over a long period of time and special thanks are owed to Jed Drew, Dave Morris, John Somerville and Brian Clark. These Trustees were authorized to conduct the negotiations and the work required to prepare the Manse for sale.

It should be noted that John Somerville served as Chair of Trustees for eleven years and after the successful conclusion of the sale, he stepped down as Chair. John served exceptionally well over many years and we are grateful for his service to St. Paul's. His attention to detail and his financial acumen served us well.

Jed Drew as the "Project Manager" and Dave Morris both spent countless hours working on the sale and St. Paul's is deeply grateful to them. Dave's knowledge of the administrative procedures and the correct people to contact at the Municipal and County levels smoothed the path for the project and enabled us to complete it with very few problems.

The Trustees manage the insurance for the Church property and the investments. The insurance is budgeted at \$13,200 for 2021.

A summary of St. Paul's investments is attached. Currently, the church has investment funds totaling \$505,898. As of December 17, 2020, a total of \$209,898 of our investment funds became unrestricted investments, allowing us use of the principal and interest. The remaining \$296,00 have restrictive covenants which restrict our access to the principal amounts, generally allowing us access only to the interest earned. With respect to \$246,000 invested from the sale of the Manse, we may draw upon the principal only with the express permission of the Antler River Watershed Regional Council. The \$50,000 from the estate of Dr. Alexander must be invested for our benefit without access to the principal.

In October 2020, St. Paul's received a bequest from the Estate of Mrs. Margaret Brown in the amount of \$10,000. Mrs. Brown was a longtime member of St. Paul's and the UCW and it was very generous of her to remember us in this way.

I want to thank and recognize the support and effort of all the Trustees this year. The Trustees in 2020 were Fran Bell, Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer, Jed Drew, Sheila McKibbin, Dave Morris, John Somerville, Dale Springer and Deb Wycherley.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Brian Clark, Chair
Board of Trustees

**St. Paul's United Church
TILLSONBURG, ON
Investment Funds Summary Statement**

SCOTIA WEALTH MANAGEMENT ACCT: 467-01115

Authorizations: (Any two of): Brian Clark, Jed Drew, Dale Springer, Deb Wycherley

Issuer	Maturity	Principal Amount	Interest Rate	Investment Type	Source of Funds (See conditions below)
National Bank.	2/9/2021	\$34,000.00	2.26%	GIC*	F. Pressey
CIBC	2/16/2021	\$5,800.00	2.75%	GIC*	F. Pressey
Scotia Mortgage	2/24/2021	\$49,200.00	2.00%	GIC*	Manse Sale
Manulife Trust	2/14/2022	\$34,698.00	2.00%	GIC*	F. Pressey
CIBC	2/15/2022	\$5,800.00	2.80%	GIC*	F. Pressey
Scotia Mortgage	2/24/2022	\$49,200.00	1.91%	GIC*	Manse Sale
CIBC	2/15/2023	\$5,800.00	2.90%	GIC*	F. Pressey
Bank of Montreal	2/24/2023	\$49,200.00	1.92%	GIC*	Manse Sale
Manulife Trust	2/27/2023	\$34,000.00	2.85%	GIC*	F. Pressey
CIBC	2/15/2024	\$40,000.00	3.00%	GIC*	F. Pressey
Bank of Montreal	2/26/2024	\$49,200.00	1.96%	GIC*	Manse Sale
Manulife Bank	2/24/2025	\$39,800.00	2.06%	GIC*	F. Pressey
Manulife Bank	2/24/2025	\$49,200.00	2.05%	GIC*	Manse Sale
Bank of Nova Scotia	Open	\$10,000.00	0.40%	Inv. Svgs.	M. Brown

Total Invested

\$455,898.00

*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): Brian Clark, Jed Drew, Dale Springer, Deb Wycherley

Issuer	Maturity	Principal Amount	Interest Rate	Investment Type	Source of Funds (See conditions below)
BNS	7/23/2023	\$50,000.00	2.30%	GIC	Dr. Alexander
Total Invested		\$50,000.00	Interest paid on maturity.		

Grand Total Invested

\$505,898.00

All investments are CDIC Insured.

Restricted Funds

\$296,000.00

Subject to conditions noted below

Unrestricted Funds

\$209,898.00

Conditions:

Dr. Alexander	Original \$50,000 principal cannot be touched. No restriction on use of interest.
F. Pressey	Interest only may be spent on property until Dec. 17, 2020.
Manse Sale	May only use principal with approval of Antler River Watershed Regional Council. Interest available without restriction.
Margaret Brown	Unrestricted Currently in Cashable Investors Saving Account

All dates shown are Month/Day/Year

As of:

12/31/2020

MEMBERSHIP, FELLOWSHIP AND CARE COMMITTEE ~ Jed Drew

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was a relatively quiet year for the MFC Committee.

We started the year off with a Leap Year celebration consisting of a potluck dinner and assorted entertainment on February 23. The event was enjoyed by all participants and fostered fellowship throughout our church family. Then, in mid-March we entered the first major lockdown, which lasted until early September, due to COVID-19. Following Christmas, we were locked down again, for an indefinite period

While our activities within the church were greatly curtailed, we continued to send out cards to those who were ill, bereaved or who had achieved significant life milestones such as birthdays and anniversaries. As well, we ensured that the Official Roll of members was kept updated as we learned of changes in the status of members.

In this respect, our congregation, as of December 31, 2020 was 343 persons, a net increase of one, despite the deaths of six members during the year.

Full Members		Change Since 2019
Active	210	-4
Inactive	20	-1
Non-Resident	33	+4
Total Full Members	263	-1
Members		
Children of Full Members	3	0
Other Baptized Children	13	-2
Total Members	16	-2
Non-Member Children	6	-1
Adherents	57	+5
Total Congregation	342	+1

It has been our pleasure to serve on this committee.

Committee Members: Jed Drew (Chair), Karon Harris, Mary Hessler, Dianne Parnell

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT 2020 ~ Brian Clark

The Ministry and Personnel Committee support and supervise the people employed by the Pastoral Charge on a full or part time basis. We are guided by the Constitution of St. Paul's and the Manual of the United Church of Canada.

The Pandemic year of 2020 has brought huge changes both to our Worship Services and to how our Staff carried out their work. It has meant additional work for our Minister, Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer, our Administrative Assistant Helen Loehndorf, our Custodian Desmond Palmer, our Christian Development Coordinator Karen Hodges and our Director of Music Shelley Vermeersch. Each in their own way has had to adjust how they worked for the benefit of St. Paul's.

Rev. Karlene has spent hours preparing Services to go online on YouTube so we could continue to attend Worship even when Provincial regulations had closed all churches due to the pandemic. She has also prepared a Wednesday Meditation throughout the year and spent hours on the telephone trying to reach those in need of Pastoral Care at a time when in-person visits were not possible. Once we were permitted to conduct limited Worship Services in the Sanctuary, she was also involved in working through the regulations and in preparing the Sanctuary for the Services.

Desmond Palmer has had additional work sanitizing the building after Services and making sure we complied with Public Health regulations. This is in addition to his normal duties maintaining the Church properties.

Helen Loehndorf, Shelley Vermeersch and Karen Hodges each met their own set of challenges with grace and ingenuity. We are grateful for the cooperation and effort of each of our Staff members. We were able to maintain all of our Staff on full salary during the Pandemic months when we were unable to be open as normal. On our return to limited functioning, each person adapted well to the new conditions.

I also wish to recognize the support of our Voluntary Associate Ministers, Rev. Maurice Francis and Rev. Pat Cook. Their support of the Congregation is much appreciated.

Towards the end of 2020, Brad Bennett stepped down as Chair of Ministry and Personnel after serving in that capacity for a number of years. We have benefited from Brad's leadership and knowledge and are very pleased he is remaining on the committee.

The members of the M&P Committee are Debbie Beres, Brad Bennett, Brian Clark, Norma Collis, Karen Helsdon and Dave Morris. I want to thank each person for their continuing support of our Staff and St. Paul's.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Clark, Chair

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT & SUNDAY SCHOOL 2020 ~ Chair: Brenda Marshall

The Christian Development and a Sunday school like all groups have had a challenging year. We have not been able to meet in person since March. Under the excellent and dedicated leadership of Karen Hodges as our Sunday School Coordinator we have been able to keep in touch with our Sunday School children virtually. She has sent the lessons through YouTube and we have delivered crafts, word games and colouring sheets weekly.

We were only able to hold two PA days in 2020 January and March. They were held at Avondale United Church with whom we had partnered. We have had more new attendees this year. All the children have a great day. We will have to wait and see what September 2021 brings and look forward to returning.

We were able to assist with a Vacation Bible School this year. Several Tillsonburg Churches joined together to do a Virtual VBS. The lessons and songs delivered virtually and a large group of volunteers delivering the crafts, snacks and game. The VBS was done over a five-week period instead of five days. Through all the churches we reached close to 200 registrants.

Sunday School

Continue to be a Blessing, to our teachers Jeannet Van Hoeve, Glenna Cargill, Michelle Batt- Marshall, Norma Collis, Sybil Sharpe, Brenda Marshall and Karen Hodges. We pray they stay safe and well and can meet in person soon.

Activities

We started our year with our annual Angel box, which was donated to Make A Wish Foundation. With the support of the congregation, we were able to give the group over \$850.00 for their work in this area. Everyone enjoyed the presentation. Thanks everyone.

The Sunday School assisted with the Pancake Supper February 25th.

Future

Like everyone at St. Paul's the Sunday school and the Christian Development Committee cannot wait to be able to meet in person once again. We miss the interaction but mostly the hugs. Until then we hope everyone stays safe and stays healthy.

Brenda Marshall

BIBLE STUDY GROUP ~ Ruth Francis

As with most of our Church activities this year, Bible Study was also quite affected. We had only 8 gatherings before we had to stop because of COVID-19.

However, during that time we averaged 9 attendees looking again at the Gospel of Matthew. Our last time together we read through The World Day of Prayer service as there was not a service planned in Tillsonburg.

As a group, we miss the close fellowship we share as we study, meditate, and pray together. We look forward to the time when once again we will be together.

Ruth Francis

PASTORAL CARE TEAM ~ LEADER: Rev. Pat Cook

It has been a challenging year for all and the Pastoral Care Team was no exception. As a committee we kept in contact through e-mail and phone calls. This year, we visited our congregants by phone to let them know we were thinking of them; assuring them they are not alone, as we journey through the pandemic and look forward to brighter days ahead.

We offered out-reach ministry at the nursing homes for the month of January and early March. However, due to Covid-19, the balance of the services were cancelled. Also, due to the pandemic we were unable to offer a Quiet Communion Service in the spring and fall. We look forward to 2021 when hopefully will be able to reschedule some of our programs. If you know someone from St. Paul's, who would appreciate a phone call or connect in some way, please advise the church office, so we as a team can make contact with them.

Respectfully submitted: Pat Cook

The team consisted of Rev. Pat Cook, Rev. Maurice Francis, Fran Bell, Sheila McKibbin, Doreen Smith, Marlen Gilbert, Dianne Parnell and Ben Hiscock.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN 2019/2020 ~ Laurie Drew, Coordinator

I hate change! With that being said, almost everything we have done in this season has to do with (you guessed it) change!

We cancelled the end of last year's service between one week and the next in the spring (never done that before!); we were totally unsure of restarting this year (never done that before!); we were banned from using our kitchen and our supplies (never had that happen before!); and we had more people in need than we have ever seen before.

Thanks to our hero, Dave Beres, we not only were able to start this season, but we even managed to start at our usual weekend. We have been purchasing pre-packaged hot meals from Dave, amalgamating them with desserts and juices, and handing out bags of food to our clients.

We have seen different people this year, including apparent transients and others who have no cutlery or places to eat. As well as feeding most of our regulars, we are also taking excess meals to the Hill Top Motel. These meals are also gleefully accepted.

In spite of changes, we are continuing to do our chosen outreach to the community. The cost, of course, is higher, as we must pay for the advantage of pre-cooked food.

Laurie Drew
Coordinator, Community Kitchen at St. Paul's

PROPERTY COMMITTEE ~ Dave Morris, Chair

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 fundraising plans to Church Council and arranging volunteer work parties.

The implementation of COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions starting March 18th, 2020 resulted in a shutdown of the use of the Church. Insurance requirements meant that the Church building needed to be secured and monitored daily. Additionally, a program was put in place to reduce Utility costs safely. A special thanks to Desmond for carrying out the work

required to meet these needs as St Paul's evolved over this exceptional year. As well, Desmond completed painting all the outside railings during the summer.

High winds in January 2019 resulted in damage to the shingling on the dome roof of the Sanctuary. Emergency repairs were carried out but water damage to a small section of the Sanctuary ceiling did take place as well as some damage to a limited number of Pipes of the Organ. The cost of emergency repairs, repairs to Sanctuary ceiling (carried out in the summer 2019) Organ repairs and re-shingling the Dome have been funded from an Insurance claim of \$48,882.98.

The Property Committee reviewed options for roofing on the Dome and made a Recommendation to Church Council to not re-shingle but install a Metal Roof. This would provide a long-term solution for the Dome which is exposed to unprotected high winds. A fundraising campaign was authorized in 2019 by Church Council for the difference between shingling and metal roof of \$30,000. As the result of a successful fundraising campaign, the new metal roof was installed by Dean Masson Construction in the summer of 2020 at a total cost of \$47,753.81.

The remaining water damage work to the Pipe Organ in the amount of \$15,435.00 will be completed in 2021 subject to COVID-19 restrictions. This will be funded from the Insurance settlement.

Thanks to the Property Committee members- Margaret Meerveld, Ron Stafford, Bob Jenney, Reg Butcher, Esther Sol and Desmond Palmer for their dedicated service to St. Paul's.

Dave Morris, Chair

Gardening Report

I spent a bit of time over the three seasons tending the flower beds with Spring bulbs and Summer annuals and perennials with regular watering and weeding, then the planting of bulbs in the fall. Pest control was another part of the fun of caring for the flowers. Thank you to Desmond for grass cutting, pruning and leaf raking.

"Glad to add my bit to the beauty of our church home outdoors."

Maurice Francis, BSA M Div.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ~ Fran Bell, Laurie Drew, Sheila McKibbin - Chair

“Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others the way God lives towards you.” Matthew 5:48 The Message

Stewardship is what you do with all that God has given us, all the time

Even during Covid-19, St Paul's practiced Stewardship by supporting both the local church and the Mission and Service of the United Church of Canada financially. Although the church was not available for community use from March to December the congregation continued to find new ways to support the wider community with personal contacts.

The special offerings throughout the year enabled St. Paul's to support the local community programs (Community Kitchen, Domestic Abuse Oxford (DASO), Helping Hands Food Bank, Salvation Army Tillsonburg, Sakura House) as well as United Church sponsored programs (Camp Tanner, United Church of Canada World Development, Canadian Food Grains Bank). The amounts for each appear in the Financial Report.

St Paul's contributed \$540.00 to the appeal through the Salvation Army for school supplies to assist students in Tillsonburg. We participated in a different manner in the Adopt A Family program by providing \$2000.00 so several families were able to enjoy food and gifts at Christmas. Food was collected from January to March for the Helping Hand Food Bank. The Spare Change for World Change jar was also available for a limited time and \$207.00 was collected. Opportunity was given to use the Gifts with Vision Catalogue which supports projects of Indigenous Canadians, Canadian and Global Mission and Service partners.

St Paul's generous offering to the Mission and Service Fund of \$28,083.84 as well as the \$7000.00 from the UCW, makes a better world possible. Mission messages and stories appeared in the bulletin on a regular basis. In giving, sharing and living Christ's love the St Paul's congregation was able to continue to demonstrate the generosity which enable the vulnerable to be lifted up. Thank you to all for your gifts of time, talent and money given cheerfully through a year where we have had to do so much so very differently.

A special thank you to the church staff for their positive support and to the committee members for their gracious gift of time.

MESSY CHURCH ~ Norma Collis

Messy Church met as a group in January and February of 2020. Due to the developing information about Covid 19, subsequent Messy Church “meet ups” were suspended. All families and volunteers were contacted by email or regular mail with suggestions for family related games and songs etc. that might be enjoyed during the initial “lock down.”

In July, we began to deliver monthly activity packages to the front doors of those Messy Church families who indicated via email that they would like to receive these materials. Since that time, we have delivered 35 bags to various homes each month. Our furthest delivery point is 35 minutes south of town.

Brown paper grocery bags were donated by Sobeys to contain the craft items for delivery. Each bag contains a minimum of 4, age-appropriate crafts. We have tried to have 2 fairly substantial crafts that the family can work on together and 2 other crafts that each child can work on independently. Each kit also contains small plastic containers of glue, paint etc. and we have also supplied craft sized glue guns to those families who have indicated that they have a need of one.

A letter signed by Rev. Karlene and the Messy Church volunteers is included in each package.

When available, books and games are also added with each child receiving a gift-wrapped new Christmas book in the latest packages.

One of our volunteers assembles a treat for each child. These are individually wrapped by a masked and gloved volunteer with any baked items being frozen for several weeks prior to delivery.

We contact each family so that they know when to expect their delivery and frequently the children are waiting at the front window waving and blowing kisses. The biggest “reward” is hearing them shout “Messy Church is here!”

We would like to acknowledge and thank our church board, St. Paul’s UCW and AOTS and individuals in our church family who support this outreach programme financially.

Respectfully Norma Collis (Messy Church volunteer)

ST. PAUL'S ARCHIVES ~ Barbara Aubrey and Beth Sandor

Due to COVID-19, there has been very limited use of the church since March 2020. For the first part of the year, Beth Sandor was collecting posters and photographing events in the church, but nothing has been collated into the annual binders. During the lockdown, digital copies of church bulletins and other messages have been kept. I wish to thank Beth for “holding the fort” and carrying on the work of the Archives during my absence.

Barbara Aubrey

ST. PAUL'S SOUND SYSTEM ~ Bonnie Stafford

Working together to run the sound system requires teamwork and even though we haven't been in church much everyone works together trying to do the best to make our services run well.

Sometimes there are issues with an echo or running the videos but the team always works to try and resolve all issues. As part of the St. Paul's church family the sound system is just a small part of an extraordinary group of people. Thank you to the sound operators and helpers for your efforts in 2020.

Bonnie Stafford



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

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

A young person I know asked me if I thought this year would be remarkable in history - what an understated question that turned out to be!

Once again, our executive is made up of many shared positions:

President - Maurice Francis, Dave Morris & Dave Collis.

Secretary - Rick Aubrey, assisted by one of the presidents when he is away travelling.

Treasurer - Terry Pond retired and Glen Groom took over helped by Dave Collis.

Caller - Sam Helsdon.

Members at large - Tim Stafford, John Somerville, Floyd Marshall & Sam Lamb.

Fiscally, we donated to the church dome repair, but our three main charities, minor ball, Sea Scouts (who have since changed their affiliation and are now the 'Tillsonburg Sailing Association') and the Upper Deck, having their activities greatly reduced due to covid-19 did not get their usual donation. We began the year with \$1190 and our closing balance was about \$1850. The uncertainty is because we have been unable to reliably check the bank statements due to the pandemic.

We began the year with great gusto on January 18. Our ladies night was held with an attendance of 30. The Spaghetti dinner, held on March 7, was our success of the year, netting us over \$1500. With the alarming spread of Covid-19 throughout the world in mid-March, the remaining activities planned for the rest of the year were systematically cancelled as it became apparent that this pandemic would not be soon over. Even now, as we are again in lockdown in Ontario at the end of 2020 and extending into 2021, it is not evident when this will end so church services are again cancelled, as are our AOTS activities.

The year began with our usual executive and general breakfast meetings, but again this changed in March and the general meetings were cancelled and the executive meetings, beginning in May, were (with Dave Morris's expertise) held by Zoom from the comfort of our own homes.

All in all, a very different year and one that will go down in history books and in our memories as one that taught us alternative ways of living, but one not to be soon repeated.

Rick Aubrey, AOTS secretary



THE UNITED CHURCH WOMEN ~ President, Fran Bell

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.

The U.C.W. expected to have a full and busy year but as everyone is aware, everything came to a halt in mid-March. Learning to do things differently and safely has been the challenge for 2020! However, I think that members have risen to the challenge and been very creative in finding ways to still be the “U.C.W.” in these pandemic times. Prior to shut down however, we were able to hold two 100th birthday celebrations, one for Honor Carmichael and one for Violet Jackson.

Several members also took the Food Handling Course on January 25th and were certified as Food Handlers by Southwestern Ontario Public Health.

Although our in-person meetings were discontinued, executive meetings were held via Zoom as well as one meeting in person, under the trees at Annandale National Historic site. The December annual general meeting was also held via Zoom – a different format from previous years.

Throughout the year, four fundraising events replaced the cancellation of the Geranium Coffee Break and the in-person Frosty Fair Bazaar. These included an appeal to the membership, the sale of meat pies, the publication of a cookbook "Served with Love", which sold out in less than a month, and for the first time, an online Frosty Fair Bazaar.

These fund-raising events have enabled us to continue our service work in the church, community and the broader world. In fulfilling the UCW purpose we donated \$7000.00 to the Mission and Service Fund of Canada. For our special project we continued to support Dr Supriya Singh, an orthopedic surgeon, in her volunteer work. As well we sponsored a number of groups: DASO (Domestic Abuse Services Oxford), Five Oaks Centre, Helping Hands Food Bank Tillsonburg, Fresh Start Maternity, Sakura House, Tillsonburg Salvation Army, Victoria Quilts and Youth for Christ.

Thank you to everyone, U.C.W members and others, who helped with these projects, and events. Your support, energy and expertise are greatly appreciated! A special thank you to Helen for responding to our requests for assistance, to Dave Morris for setting up our zoom meetings, and to Rev. Karlene, thank you for your prayers and encouragement.

Fran Bell, U.C.W. President

U.C.W. ARCHIVES ~ Barbara Aubrey and Beth Sandor Archivists

For the first two months of 2020, Beth Sandor attended and photographed Unit meetings, but there have been no meetings since the lockdown in mid-March, and nothing has been collated into the binders. The Frosty Fair bazaar was held virtually this year, and we collected several digital photos of items available for purchase. We also will have a copy of the 2020 cookbook for the Archives.

OXFORD PRESBYTERIAL UNITED CHURCH WOMEN ~ Doreen Smith

Leadership and Development

Due to Covid 19 All Presbyterial Meetings were cancelled.
Our 58th Annual Meeting was to be held at Trinity United Church, Ingersoll on March 18, 2020 and had to be cancelled.

Doreen Smith

U.C.W. UNIT 1 ~ Thelma Hadwen

Membership: 9 + many at large.

Jan. 27 at 2p.m. – Program: Lions Guide Dog program presented by Bill Chanyi.

Feb. 24 – Program: Messy Church was cancelled due to weather.

Mar. 25 – Cancelled due to Covid 19 pandemic.

All remaining Programs cancelled due to Covid 19.

Members participated in a Cook Book fundraiser.

During the year random phone calls were made to unit members to update them on UCW and to keep in touch.

2020 Unit Executive remained the same as 2019 and again in 2021.

Thelma Hadwen – Unit Leader

U.C.W. UNIT 6 ~ Laura Mahoney, Unit Leader

Unit 6 meets in the Friendship Room on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00p.m. When we have a meal, we meet at 6:00p.m. The program for the meeting is provided by unit 6 members. We invite all church ladies to come and share a time of fellowship with us.

This year our topic of study was The Parables.

In January and February, we met at 1:30 p.m. instead of 7:00p.m., in anticipation of inclement weather. Our topic for January was the Parable of Talents and in February the topic was the Parable of the Lost Sheep. Both of these meetings included a delicious dessert, coffee, tea and time for fellowship.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 struck and our meetings for the year came to an abrupt halt. We keep in contact with phone calls and e-cards but of course it is not the same as seeing each other in person.

Hopefully, 2021 will bring good news and we will be able to meet again in person.

Laura Mahoney, Unit 6 Leader

ST. PAUL'S U.C.W. SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2021

Past President	Margot Leachman
President	Fran Bell
1 st Vice President	-----
2 nd Vice President	-----
Secretary	Shirley Godfree
Corresponding Secretary	Jean Mills
Treasurer	Mary Hessler
Assistant Treasurer	Doreen Smith
Stewardship, Outreach, Missions, Fundraising:	Sheila McKibbin
Social Work in Society, -Funerals, Lenten Lunch etc.	Esther Sol, Doreen Smith, Carol Morling
Archives	Barbara Aubrey, Beth Sandor
Auditor	Peg Hogarth

UNIT LEADERS:

Unit 1 Leader: Thelma Hadwen

Unit 6 Leader: Laura Mahoney

UNIT MEETINGS:

Unit 1:	4 th Monday of the month	1:30 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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE ~ Ron Wycherley, Chair



In a year that started out with a very solid financial position we were faced with many challenges. The St. Paul's family stepped up with a tremendous response. The continued financial support was outstanding. Big thanks to Laurie and Helen who took care of the weekly collection while I watched on YouTube.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Wycherley, Chair of Finance

TREASURER'S REPORT ~ Laurie Drew

As I know you have read many times before in this report, nothing this year was normal. The church has been physically closed for much of the past year, and when we were allowed in, we were severely reduced in numbers. I have missed us!

The financial situation this year has also been not normal. It has been more difficult to get your envelopes into the office for counting, and we appreciate all of the efforts that have been made.

We do want to emphasize that our accounting system allows us to receive E-transfers from bank accounts. If you are registered for online banking, this is an easy transaction for you to do. Please check St. Paul's website for full directions.

Thank you to Helen Loehndorf for her support with accounting and finances, thank you to the Finance Committee. As well, I would like to thank our auditor, Paul Hanson, who again has done a sterling job checking our books.

Laurie Drew, Treasurer,
St. Paul's United Church, Tillsonburg

AUDITOR'S REPORT



St. Paul's United Church

ANTLER RIVER WATERSHED REGION
Minister: Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer, M Div.
Chair of Council: Reg Butcher

88 Bidwell Street
Tillsonburg, Ontario N4G 3V2
519 688-0011, 688-0012 or 688-0613

January 18th, 2021

St. Paul's United Church
Church Council

Re: 2020 Audit

I have reviewed the financial records of the Church for the year 2020 and have confirmed the bank balances and investment certificates as at December 31, 2020.

St. Paul's holds a Bequest Trust Certificate of \$50,000 and Restricted Investments of \$296,000.00 and Non-restricted Investments in the amount of \$209,898.00. Interest from these funds is to be used for church purposes; but the principal cannot be used for expenses.

I found the records to be according to good accounting practice and would like to thank Laurie Drew and Helen Loehndorf for their assistance during the audit.

I believe the attached statement reasonably reflects the financial status of the church as at December 31, 2020.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely

Paul Hanson

Email: stpaulsunited@execulink.com

Website: www.stpaulsunitedchurch.net

www.facebook.com/St-Pauls-United-Church-Tillsonburg-450130471666693/

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT ~ Mary Anne Silverthorn

From the Constitution of St. Paul's United Church, the Nominating Committee shall:

- 1. be responsible for recommending members to the positions of Council Chair, Council Vice Chair, Committee Chairs and Committee Membership;*
- 2. annually review the make-up of the Council and request Committees to submit names of possible replacement for the members who are retiring from these committees; and*
- 3. ensure continuity by recommending that no more than one-half of a committee retire in any year.*

The Nominating Committee shall present its recommendations to the Church Council for information and then to the Community of Faith at the Annual Meeting for approval.

According to the Constitution document, the Nominating Committee consists of the positions of Past Chair, the Chair and the Vice Chair. The Nominating committee working to complete the process and report for the 2021 Council and Committee personnel were Mary Anne Silverthorn and Reg Butcher. The position of Vice chair has been vacant since Council received the resignation of Dave Rushton in July 2020.

Each year the Nominating Committee begins its work about September/October by asking Committee Chairs to ascertain from their Committees who is willing to commit to another year of service. Once that information is collected the Nominating Committee begins to approach people to fill the vacancies. This "approaching" works best with face-to-face conversations allowing prospective members to ask questions, and seek clarifications about the positions. Following that initial contact, we allow time for the person to discern their willingness to serve before we approach them again for confirmation as we compile the proposed list. If a committee chair is needed the Nominating committee work to complete that process by approaching internal members of the committee itself first. This entire process takes place from September to December when the proposed list of Council Chairs and Committee members is presented to the December Council meeting for their information followed by being forwarded to the Annual Meeting for approval.

As you can appreciate this year with no face-to-face meetings since March it was very difficult to complete the work of the Nominating Committee in the

usual fashion. With reduced numbers attending worship this presented additional difficulty. The committee received some resignations while a few people indicated their willingness to join the work of some committees. The telephone and email do not receive the same result as the face-to-face conversations. Therefore, in consultation with Council we chose to make the changes we received and name that as the completed report for the proposed Council and Committee members for 2021. We felt that in the pandemic time the task of the nominating committee was completed.

As you read the 2021 list of Council and Committee members, you may have an interest where there is a vacancy or you just want some general info about the work of Council/Committees please feel free to contact me (phone, email and /or text) as the Chair at any time. My contact information can be found in the St. Paul's directory or by calling the church office.

From the preamble to the list of Council and Committee members for 2021, and following Information from the Sub- Executive of the General Council of the United Church re: Annual Meetings (during this pandemic) being postponed (since we cannot meet face to face) - this list for 2021 was approved at the December 2020 Council Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mary Anne Silverthorn

Chair of the Nominating Committee

CHURCH COUNCIL 2021

*** Operating under direction received from the General Council Executive***
to deal with Annual Meeting 2020 and business pertaining to that meeting
in this time of a pandemic – granting authority to Governing bodies of local
Communities of Faith:

the following Council Members and Committee people for 2021 were
approved at the St Paul's Council meeting of December 2020.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS for 2021

All personal information has been deleted following the directions
given by Antler River Watershed (ARW) Regional Council concerning Annual
Reports and their distribution.

Chair - Reg Butcher

Vice Chair – (Vacant)

Past Chair -Mary Anne Silverthorn

Recording Secretary -Debbie Beres

Treasurer - Laurie Drew, **Asst. Treasurer** - Doreen Smith

Clergy – Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer

Committee Chairs

Christian Development – Brenda Marshall

Finance - Ron Wycherley

Membership, Fellowship and Care –Jed Drew

Ministry and Personnel- Brian Clark

Property – Dave Morris

ARW Regional Council Rep – Mary Anne Silverthorn, Marianne Ferris+1
vacancy

Stewardship – vacant

Trustees – Brian Clark

Worship – Dave Collis

UCW Rep – Fran Bell

AOTS – Dave Morris

Voluntary Associate Ministers (VAM) -Rev. Pat Cook, Rev Maurice Francis

Committee Members

Christian Development – Karen Hodges, Leslie Jackson

Finance - Treasurer, Doug Franklin, Doreen Smith, Deb Wycherley
Membership, Fellowship and Care- Dianne Parnell, Mary Hessler, Karon Harris

Ministry and Personnel – Deb Beres, Brad Bennett, Norma Collis, Marianne Ferris, Karen Helsdon, Dave Morris, Kelly Springer

Property – Robert Jenney, Margaret Meerveld, Esther Sol (UCW), Bonnie/Ron Stafford, Desmond Palmer - Custodian

Stewardship – Laurie Drew (Finance Rep) + vacancies

Trustees --- Jed Drew (Secretary), Fran Bell, Sheila McKibbin, Dave Morris, Dale Springer, Deb Wycherley

Worship – Doreen Smith, Bonnie Stafford- Sound system rep (and organizes ushers), Carol Morling, (organizes Communion), Dag Morris Council Rep, Karen Hodges, Shelley Vermeersch, Dave Collis- Messy Church rep, Carol Crocker -Choir Rep Other Personnel

Co-Archivists - Barb Aubrey /Beth Sandor

Communion Preparation – Maurice/ Ruth Francis, Bob / Janet Jenney, John Somerville, Nancy Gowette

Flower Committee (reports to Worship) Anne Beard, Norma Collis, Dag Morris, Jean Mills

Pastoral Care – Fran Bell, Pat Cook, Maurice Francis, Marlen Gilbert, Sheila McKibbin, Dianne Parnell, Doreen Smith, Ben Hiscock

Projectionists –Debbie Beres, Dorell Clark, Jed Drew and Laurie Drew, Dave Morris

Sound System Operators -- Brian Clark, Dave Collis, Bill Epple, Bonnie Stafford

NOTES:
