

*St. Paul's United
Church*

**2023
ANNUAL REPORT**



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

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“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'd Karlene Brown-Palmer

Peace My St. Paul's Family,

May the peace, hope, joy and love we receive during Advent sustain us as we face the days ahead in 2024 and beyond. Jane Parker Huber in the hymn "God of Life" VU #528 reminds us:

God of life in Christ you lead us, guiding us along the way
In our past through joys and sorrow, you have been our strength and stay
Keep us faithful true disciples in our learning and our prayers
Celebrating past and present, consecrating future days

During 2023 we had mixed blessings and continued to be the people who are called to serve in Tillsonburg. Let us reflect on some of our experiences throughout the past year.

Worship Events

We were able to participate in these scheduled services for the year:

- ❖ Epiphany
- ❖ Black History Month Sunday
- ❖ International Women's Sunday
- ❖ Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday Easter Sunday
- ❖ Earth Day/Camping Sunday
- ❖ Mental Health Sunday
- ❖ Family Sunday
- ❖ Receiving of New Members
- ❖ UCW & AOTS Sunday
- ❖ Cancer Survivors Sunday
- ❖ Fathers' Day
- ❖ Outdoor Worship
- ❖ Orange Shirt Sunday
- ❖ World Communion Sunday
- ❖ Thanksgiving Sunday
- ❖ St. Paul's Anniversary Sunday
- ❖ Remembrance Sunday
- ❖ Children's Sunday
- ❖ Advent
- ❖ Kids Pageant
- ❖ Blue Christmas
- ❖ Christmas Eve
- ❖ 5 communion services

Reflecting on Special Services

We reflect on a few special services below:

- ✚ **Valentine's Day/AGM** - We celebrated everyone as Jesus' Valentines. Seventy-one tokens were prepared and distributed.
- ✚ **Hymnology Sunday** - It consisted of reflection on the works of hymn writers Fanny Crosby and Isaac Watts. Their hymns and stories behind them.
- ✚ **International Women's Sunday** - On this Sunday we presented cash and kind for eighty-five pillows and pillowcases for clients at Harvey Woods Loft in Woodstock.
- ✚ **Quiet Communion** - The Pastoral Team organized a quiet communion service with refreshments after. Twelve persons were in attendance.

- ✚ **Planning Before & After** – There was a shortened service followed by presentations by Brad Bennett from a lawyer’s perspective and then from Ken Butcher from an undertaker’s perspective. We have since begun a file at St. Paul’s where individuals can write their final wishes to help plan their celebration of life. Thirty-two persons were in attendance.
- ✚ **Earth Day/Camping Sunday** - Our sanctuary became camping grounds and we dressed likewise. We ended the worship with hot dogs and smores.
- ✚ **Outdoor Worship Service** - This was held in our parking lot with the theme - “Out in the Sun: Celebrating the SON.” After worship we were fed by Todd’s Dogs. This will be an annual event.
- ✚ **Back to School** - Each year on the Sunday before school opens, we have special prayers for our children. Students are provided with some school supplies and a special printed prayer that they can put up in their room and pray as they prepare to go to school. Twenty packages were prepared.
- ✚ **St. Paul’s Anniversary Sunday/Clergy Appreciation** - As we celebrated our church anniversary this year, we also celebrated Clergy Month by recognizing the four retired and one active clergy in our congregation. Members wrote cards and letters expressing their appreciation and other tokens were distributed and there was special cake at coffee time.
- ✚ **Children’s Sunday** – Our children led us in worship and we recognized Karen Hodges for her ten years of service to St. Paul’s as our Sunday School Coordinator.
- ✚ **Volunteer Sunday** – We recognized the numerous people who help to make our church a place where all can be accepted and loved. Certificates, pens and key chains were handed out to volunteers. Those who were not present received their tokens at a later date.

Membership

- * We lost eleven members this year. Some of these persons were integrally involved in our congregation. Thankfully others have stepped up and are trying to fill the roles as we continue to be faithful. We joyfully celebrate their service to our church and to the wider community.
- * We officially welcomed three persons into the membership through confirmation/affirmation of faith and three through baptism.

We continue to see and welcome new persons in our fellowship and pray they will make St. Paul’s their permanent home.

Connecting with the wider Church/Community

I continue to represent St. Paul's at the Tillsonburg Area Ministerial. I am also serving alongside Pastor Paul Robinson as Padre to the 153rd Tillsonburg Legion and I continue to be an executive member of the Antler River Watershed Regional Council.

In appreciation

We were only able to achieve all we did because everyone joined hands together. 2023 would not be possible without the outstanding work of some special people. We sincerely thank all of you.

- * Our Chairs of Council Jed Drew and Mary Anne Silverthorn and the entire Council of 2023.
- * Our valued tech team – projectionists, live streaming and sound crew.
- * Our outreach ministry teams especially Community Kitchen & Messy Church.
- * Our support staff: Helen, Shelley, Karen and Desmond.

We have closed the chapter on 2023 and 2024 has already begun, my prayer is that we will continue to be committed as we are able, in our little part of God's vineyard, St. Paul's United Church Tillsonburg; God being our helper. We are not alone God is with us. Amen.

Shalom,
Rev'd Karlene Brown-Palmer

CHURCH COUNCIL ~ Mary Anne Silverthorn, Acting Chair

The year began having forgotten many of the restrictions and effects of the pandemic. Church Committees were meeting regularly; groups were planning events and those events were taking place with no restrictions. People were boarding planes and jet-setting off to anywhere in the world and it appeared 'life was good'. Worship services had returned to normal with no masks, refreshments were served after worship. Meetings were in person with a few exceptions. Church council chose to continue to meet monthly by Zoom.

Following the congregational meeting in February, Jed Drew became the Chair of Council. From the beginning of his election to the position of Chair, Jed was keen to work towards increasing our financial status by raising monthly giving's working to diminish our deficit. At the April Council meeting there was a discussion about introducing select Focus Groups where we would generate ideas in issues such as,

outreach, membership, communications and fund raising. By June the focus group meetings had morphed into anyone who wished to participate, working with a facilitator to discuss moving forward at St. Paul's. Two meetings were scheduled for the fall with Lynne Dunlop acting as our facilitator.

Worship had introduced the concept of an outdoor summer service followed by a picnic. On July 16, people arrived with lawn chairs in hand for worship. Tents had been erected: music for the service was provided by Shelley. Rev. Karlene provided a very meaningful worship service. After worship, we moved towards the Food Truck to order our food and enjoy the social time to visit and chat. The food was excellent; the conversation stimulating. There were many positive comments including the request "to do this again" because the food truck and the worship outdoors – all were big hits.

The two workshops were planned for September 17, and October 15. Lynne provided us with a process and we looked at what is good, what to keep and what to stop. In addition, we had people decide to take on small tasks such as updating info for visitors, calendar updates and some other planning as we plan for 2024. There were about 40 in attendance at each session. Summaries of each workshop, were completed and distributed to the church family. There were lots of suggestions and much food for thought as we move into 2024.

On Saturday September 16, the family of St. Paul's was shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of Laurie Drew. Laurie was the church treasurer, a member of Council, the founder and co-ordinator of the Community Kitchen and on and on. It took a "short scramble" for Council to get all the positions filled as necessary with "acting positions" – at least on a temporary basis until the Annual Meeting in February 2024. Many thanks to all those who came forward and were willing to assist, and continue to assist in so many ways.

At the Council meeting of September 19, Jed asked to be placed on a Leave of Absence for an undetermined length of time, and I was named Acting Chair of Council.

Council completed their vote on Remit 1 at the November Council meeting and our "yes" vote was sent to the General Council Office as necessary. This vote, if passed will establish an autonomous national indigenous organization. Votes are to be completed prior to March 31, 2024.

As advent approached, special worship services including moms and sons participating in the candle lighting, baptism, communion, choir and friends presenting the cantata entitled “Beautiful Saviour,” Poinsettia Sunday and ending with a Christmas Eve Service were all part of the month of December. The Adopt-a-Family program saw our family supporting 4 families. What an overwhelming response from our St. Paul’s family members who demonstrated an amazing willingness to help others. Thank you sincerely to all who participated and a sincere thank you to Marianne Ferris, who coordinated the entire project.

Events such as music concerts, the annual yard sale, suppers have been planned by many and enjoyed and appreciated by all -- the profits helped to increase our financial position.

It is wonderful to see the church building being well used again. We have regular rentals and ongoing meetings monthly. Programmes are ongoing – Messy Church and Community Kitchen continue see rising numbers of participants and bring new faces to the building. Thank you to all the leaders who assist to make these programs very successful. Special thanks to Julie and Keith Avery who stepped forward to be the coordinators of the Community Kitchen – your support is greatly appreciated by all!

St. Paul’s is blessed to have a staff of 5 extraordinary people. We at St. Paul’s are privileged to know these people and honoured that they form the staff of St. Paul’s United Church. Rev Karlene, Karen, Helen, Desmond and Shelley are committed, dedicated and professional employees. Each demonstrates leadership in their own way while working as a team to keep St. Paul’s running as a well- oiled machine.

In addition, we are blessed to have the ongoing support of the three Voluntary Associate Ministers (VAM) namely: Rev. Pat Cook, Rev. Maurice Francis and Rev. Bonnie Pilkey.

Our large church “family” is comprised of many willing people who together makes St. Paul’s run efficiently and smoothly. These people are all volunteers. Council sincerely thanks all these volunteers who continue to give many hours of service behind the scenes. On December 3, 2023 the many volunteers were recognized for their service. As names were called each stood. It was very overwhelming but meaningful to see so many people standing indicating we truly have a lot of volunteers—what a meaningful service. Each and every one of you is greatly

appreciated. Thanks Rev. Karlene for arranging this celebration and recognition of our volunteers.

In conclusion, this church family is strong and cohesive. I thank each of you and each member of staff for their support as we all have journeyed together through challenges and changes – always celebrating the good times and special occasions.

Please allow me to make a personal comment. Thank you sincerely to all for your support given to me as I once again serve as your Acting Chair of Council and the Congregation. With your support we will get through the changes necessary as we move into and through 2024.

Thank you sincerely to all!

Report submitted by,

Mary Anne Silverthorn

Past Chair – February 12, 2023 -September 19, 2023

Acting Chair – September 19, 2023 >

2023 ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2024
AGENDA

1. **Lighting of Christ Candle and devotion - Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer**
2. **Call to Order** – Mary Anne Silverthorn, Council Acting 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 17, 2024 as circulated (or with additions as necessary).
6. **Motion **** to approve minutes of Congregational Annual meeting – February 12, 2023 and (as necessary).

REPORTS:

7. Minister's Report -Rev. Karlene
8. Transitions of 2023 - Baptism, Marriage, Funerals/Memorial Services/Committals

- Council Report – Mary Anne – Acting Chair

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Motion ****to approve all 2023 Committee reports as printed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

- Acting Treasurer / Finance Chair** -reports- Ron Wycherley
2023-Financial Report -**Motion ******
Motion to receive Auditor’s report- **Motion ******
Appointment of auditor for 2024—**Motion ******
2024 -Budget Proposal-**Motion *****
2024 M and S Allocation -**Motion *****
- Approval of Proposed Church Council/Committees 2024—Motion *****
- Confirmation of Trustees – Motion ****
- Appointment of Lay Representatives to Antler River Watershed
Regional Council – Mary Anne**
Motion **to appoint – Marianne Ferris/ Mary Anne Silverthorn+1
- New Business** - as necessary
- Next Annual Meeting** - date – February 16, 2025
- Courtesy Remarks – Mary Anne**
- Adjournment, Blessing and Sending Forth** - Rev. Karlene
- Motion **** to adjourn

St. Paul’s United Church

MINUTES OF 2022 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Paul’s United Church was held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, February 12, 2023.

- Lighting of the Christ Candle and devotion – Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer
- Call to Order at 11:24 a.m. - Mary Anne Silverthorn, Council Chair
- Motion C22-01** - To elect Recording Secretary for the 2022 Annual Meeting
Moved: Mary H. Seconded: Sheila M.

To appoint Debbie Beres as Recording Secretary for the 2022 Congregational meeting.

Carried

4. Motion C22-02 - To extend voting privileges

Moved: Dag M.

Seconded: Jed D.

Resolved, pursuant to Section 3.7 of the UCC Manual to extend voting privileges to adherents

Carried

5. Motion C22-03 - To approve agenda for the February 12, 2023 Annual Congregational meeting

Moved: Bonnie S.

Seconded: Laurie D.

To approve agenda for the February 12, 2023 Annual Congregational meeting as circulated and amended

Carried

6. Motion C22-04 - To approve the minutes of the June 5, 2022 Congregational meeting

Moved: Debbie B.

Seconded: Laurie D.

To approve the minutes of the June 5, 2022 Congregational Annual meeting with amendments

Carried

7. Minister's Report – Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer

8. Transitions of 2022 – Baptism, Marriage, Funerals/Memorial Services/Committals

9. Council Report – Mary Anne – Chair

Mary Anne thanked everyone for attending and to everyone who helped arrange the meeting.

Committee Reports

10. Motion C22-05 - To approve all 2022 Committee reports as printed

Moved: Marianne F.

Seconded: Dorell C.

To approve all 2022 Committee reports as printed and amended

Carried

11. Treasurer's Update – Laurie D.

a) 2022 Financial Report

b) 2023 M&S Allocation

c) 2023 Budget Proposal

12. Appointment of Auditor - Paul Hansen (Approved by Council February 2022)
Motion C22-06 Motion to ratify all decisions made previously by Church Council

Moved: Laurie D.

Seconded: Ron W.

To ratify all decisions made previously by Church Council pertaining to the routine business to end 2021 year and begin 2022. Note: this would include all the items that would have been included in the 2021 Annual meeting if it had been held at the regular time, namely – approval of the 2021 financial report, the 2021 audited statements, the 2022 budget including the M&S allocation and the 2022 members of council and committees.

Carried

13. Confirmation of Trustees - Motion

Motion C22-07

Moved: Laurie D.

Seconded: Deb W.

To confirm the St. Paul's Trustees for 2023 as presented

Carried

*Explanation of action by Trustees for dealing with the 2022 deficit – Laurie & Jed D.

14. Appointment of Lay Representatives to Antler River Watershed Council

Motion C22-08

Moved: Dag M

Seconded: Brian C.

To appoint Marianne Ferris and Mary Anne Silverthorn as ARW Lay Representatives for 2023

15. New Business - None

16. Next Annual meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, February 11, 2024

17. Courtesy Remarks – Mary Anne S.

- Thank you to all St. Paul's members for their ongoing support of our church.
- Thank you to all committee and council members for your time and effort.

- Also thank you to our staff for always going above and beyond to ensure St. Paul's Church runs efficiently.

18. Adjournment, Blessing and Sending Forth – Rev. Karlene

19. **Motion C22-09**

Moved: Laurie D.

Seconded: Bonnie S.

To adjourn the 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Note: There were forty-three (43) congregational and council members in attendance as well as those who tuned in to watch the meeting on-line.

IN MEMORIAM

Eleanor Joy Pettman
 Fern Isabelle Gowman
 Clare Joseph Thompson
 Samuel 'Sam' Allen Helsdon
 Violet Madeline Jackson
 Henry Ferguson Atkinson

Marie Etta Barker
 Douglas 'Doug' Franklin
 Andy Van Leeuwen
 Laurie Drew
 Thelma Florence Hadwen

* non-members

Alice Marguerite Bennett
 Marlene Eleanor Empey
 Ronnie Albert Van Goethem
 George A.C. Campbell

Edna Ann 'Ted' Austin
 Darlene Griffiths
 Patricia Marie 'Trish' Perovich

BAPTISM

Adelaide Pearl Jackson	May 21, 2023
Amelia Brier Elizabeth Jackson	May 21, 2023
Clark Vermeersch	December 24, 2023

CONFIRMATION

Finnley William Jackson	May 21, 2023
Natalie Elizabeth Stoffa-Ferris	May 21, 2023

MARRIAGES

Brandon Alex P. Belous and Sarah Emily J. Barber	February 17, 2023
Ian Arthur Patrick Andrew and Claire Michelle Szorenyi	June 10, 2023

NEW MEMBER RECEIVED

Lesley Anderson Blake

May 21, 2023

WORSHIP COMMITTEE ~ Mary Anne Silverthorn

From our “Constitution and Committee Responsibilities documents” the Worship Committee of St. Paul’s United Church has a long list of responsibilities all relating to worship and the many programmes/activities associated with worship and the Sunday/Weekly/Monthly services.

I was elected Chair of Worship at the Annual General Meeting in February 2023. This Worship Committee, comprised of 10 members represents the many groups working within St. Paul’s United Church. Each of these groups report to worship monthly as we plan events and work closely with Rev. Karlene, Karen and Shelley to ensure that each is supported as they work through the planning for the year. In the past few years, the Christian Development Committee (CD) and Worship have worked together to plan events/activities allowing for each committee to have “more people power”. Other groups such as Messy Church work independently; however, they too report to Worship.

Worship’s budget includes monies for maintenance of the organ/piano, maintenance of the sound system and microphones, flowers in the Sanctuary (when not requested/reimbursed by individuals from the church family), supplies for each communion service and baptism, and many special events/celebrations following worship services.

Messy church continues to meet monthly – (no meetings in July/August) Using “themes” for each month their attendance continues to increase. Many thanks to Dave and Norma and all the volunteers who make this a strong viable programme – an outreach to families who now make Messy Church their church connection.

To meet our desire for a church picnic, the town granted approval for use of the parking lot and on Sunday July 16, we held our service entitled – “In the SUN Celebrating the SON”. The Worship was stimulating: the food scrumptious – a first was ordering at the food truck! Everyone present regardless of age was excited and happy to be present. From the enthusiasm we anticipate a second annual---stay tuned.

Responsibilities previously done by a flower committee have been “taken on” by the Worship committee since for many reasons there are no specific individuals volunteering to do the work of the former flower committee. We are grateful to the van Hoeve family who provide colourful cut flowers for the sanctuary every Sunday during the blooming season then cut flowers, fruits and vegetables for the Thanksgiving season. Many thanks to a small handful of people who willingly show up to assist with all the decorating for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Seasons. Your handiwork and creativity are viewed and appreciated by all who are in attendance at those special services. Thank you sincerely to each of you. Garden Gate also arrange and deliver flowers weekly as requested by families as they remember family members or celebrate a special occasion or order flowers just because.... Thank you to all those who donated to the Memorial Fund as they remembered a loved one. For these many donations your generosity is greatly appreciated.

On Sunday December 10, the family of St. Paul’s sent 55 poinsettias to people in our family who because of grief and/or illness need to know that we care about them. Garden Gate – (Matt and Linda and their staff) are amazing as they do the preparation of the plants for delivery and deliver those plants to the church ready for 8 teams of drivers to deliver them Sunday after worship. We know the recipients and their families are so thankful for the plant from the calls and notes we receive. Special thanks go to Susie/Jamie Cluett, Anne Foster and their families for their generous donation allowing this programme to “put smiles on faces” each year.

The Worship Committee combined with the Christian Development are a busy group as we work to be *a church making a difference through positive and engaging members living their faith*. (Reference: Vision Statement of St. Paul’s United Church).

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Silverthorn
Chair -Worship Committee

Mary Anne Silverthorn, Chair

Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer, Minister

Committee Members

Dave Collis -Messy Church

Carol Crocker – Choir

Karen Hodges CD Co-ordinator

Lesley Jackson – CD Committee member

Brenda Marshall - CD Committee Chair

Dag Morris

Dianne Parnell

Doreen Smith

Bonnie Stafford – Sound

Shelley Vermeersch -Director of Music

Marianne Ferris – CD Committee member

ANTLER RIVER WATERSHED REGIONAL REPORT 2023

~ Mary Anne Silverthorn

The ARW Regional Council meets twice a year in the Spring and the Fall. Each meeting is scheduled with an agenda that meets the United Church procedures re the “business of the church”.

The Spring meeting was a hybrid meeting with approximately 125 people meeting face to face at the Stonebridge Best Western Conference Centre, London and many others joining the meeting by Zoom. St. Paul’s reps Marianne Ferris and Mary Anne Silverthorn attended the weekend event in person.

All meetings begin with worship led by a team who provide invigorating music with lots of singing. The meetings are presided over by President Jane Van Patter whose theme for her presidency has been Fear Not! Be Bold and Courageous!

The spring meeting’s agenda was a combination of decisions, discussions, elections, presentations and reports. This meeting saw the introduction of 3 Candidates to the Court. Andrew Gilliland, a candidate for ordination, Jennifer Price, a candidate for Diaconal Ministry and Nancy Vanderberghe, a candidate as a Designated Lay Minister were present and gave remarks. Following the court’s approval of all three candidates, each became official in their new positions following the Celebration of Ministry service on Saturday afternoon at First United Church in St. Thomas. FYI – Nancy has been appointed to a full time DLM position at College Ave. UC in Woodstock.

In other “business” Rev. Maurice Francis was recognized for 56 years of service to the UCC. New people were elected to the Congregational Commission (3) and the Discipleship and Justice Commission (3). The new President elected for the next 2 years is Rev. Cheryl Bolton and is serving at St. Andrew’s UC in St. Thomas. It was a wonderful weekend to do the business of the church and the ARW Region but also to re-connect and make new friends. Following President Jane’s reflections and closing motions the Spring Regional Meeting was adjourned.

The agenda for the Fall Regional Meeting is very different as it is completely virtually. The meeting was introduced to the Acting Executive Minister, Rev. Mark Laird who was covering the portfolio while Rev. Cheryl–Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa was on a sabbatical.

The business of the meeting included the Regional Council voting to approve the Remit. This Remit recommends the “identification and removal of all the structural barriers in developing and sustaining an autonomous Indigenous Church with the United Church of Canada”. (Results of the Remit vote will be finalized and announced by the United Church in 2024).

The meeting heard updates of the work of each Commission, and shared in a presentation of In Memoriam and the Community of Faith Life Cycle changes. Group discussion examined the results of the Regional Council Evaluation.

The budget for 2024 was approved. The meeting concluded --- it was announced that the Spring 2024 meeting will a Tri-Regional meeting in Port Elgin May 24-26, 2024.

Following adjournment, the members of ARW Regional Council, friends and family of Janine Lunn met at St. Andrew’s United Church in St. Thomas for Janine’s Celebration of Ministry Service. Janine is serving the Beachville (West Oxford-Sweaburg) Pastoral Charges as well as the Foldens Pastoral Church.

UPDATE as of Year-end -- 2023.

Rev. Mark was serving in the Acting Position of Executive Minister while Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa Executive Minister for Antler River Watershed, Western Ontario, and Horseshoe Falls Regional Councils began a 3-month Sabbatical in the fall of 2023. In September it was announced that Rev. Cheryl-Ann would be leaving the position of Executive Minister of these 3 regions to take a 2-year contract offered to her by the General Council Secretary Rev. Michael Blair. Rev. Cheryl Ann will become a member of the GC staff resourcing General Council 45. Our Regional Councils will miss Cheryl-Ann’s wisdom and unwavering support and care, but we know that she will be a valuable resource in her new position at the General Council office.

The position was posted by General Council, with the process complete, it was announced by General Council in December 2023 that Rev. Mark will become the new Executive Minister for these 3 regions effective March1, 2024. *At present Rev. Mark is a Diaconal Minister and has been serving Drayton Pastoral Charge since 2015. He has served as President for the Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council, was a member of General Council Boundaries Commission. Mark brings his love for and experience of the church into his commitment to helping communities of faith engage in their ministry,*

PERSONAL NOTE:

While I served on the London Conference Executive I worked with Rev. Cheryl -Ann who was our Executive Minister. She was a dedicated leader and an amazing role model for all. Her knowledge and support were always present. She was an outstanding resource – she knew “governance of the United Church frontwards, backwards and inside out always professional and low-key. She had such a calm presence no matter the difficulty of any situation we would be discussing, trying to solve or just plain having a fun conversation about family and friends. I will miss her friendship – one that has gone on for over 10 years.

Additional Regional Info:

In addition to being elected as a member of the Human Resources Commission. I am a trained liaison working with the Search Team of Pastoral Charges who are seeking clergy. I was also serving as a Pastoral Charge Supervisor to 2 Pastoral Charges who are without clergy and needed an ARW rep present to conduct business meetings.

All of these positions are rewarding. I enjoy working with others and serving the United Church. Zoom meetings can be frustrating at times however it is a sign of the times we’re living through and we need to continue to be safe. Zoom provides that safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and others in the Antler River Watershed Region.

Report authored by

Mary Anne Silverthorn

From- St. Paul’s ARW Reps

Marianne Ferris

Mary Anne Silverthorn

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ~ Brian Clark, Chair

The Trustees manage the insurance of the Church property and the investments. At the time of writing, the cost of the insurance for 2024 is \$14,691.00 reflecting an 11% rise in premium. The Trustees insure the property through the Hub program of the United Church of Canada.

A summary of St. Paul's investments is attached and reflects our position at December 31, 2023. Our investments are managed by Scotia Wealth Management. Some of the invested funds are Restricted as you will see from the notes below.

I want to recognize the support of the Trustees this year. The Trustees are Fran Bell, Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer, Jed Drew, Dave Morris, Indira Reynolds, Deb Wycherley and Brad Bennett.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Brian Clark, Chair
Board of Trustees

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

INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

MEMBERSHIP, FELLOWSHIP AND CARE COMMITTEE ~ Jed Drew, Chair

A critical role of the Membership, Fellowship and Care Committee is to ensure that the Official Roll of Members is maintained. The following table shows our status as of the end of 2023:

ST. PAUL'S UNITED TILLSONBURG HISTORIC MEMBERSHIP ROLL

SUMMARY

Updated as of Dec 31, 2023

Full Members (with voting privileges)	
Active	192
Inactive	40
Total Full Members	232
<hr/>	
Members (without voting privileges)	
Children of Full Members	3
Other Baptized Children	16
Total Members	19
<hr/>	
Non-Member Children	1
<hr/>	
Adherents (conditional voting privileges)	
	49
<hr/>	
Total Congregation	301

In comparison to the previous year, our congregation declined by fourteen persons, principally through the death of members. This decline is consistent with the experience of recent years as the congregation ages.

The Membership, Fellowship and Care Committee continued to send out cards to those who were ill, bereaved or who had achieved significant life milestones such as birthdays (age 80+) and anniversaries (50+ years). In addition to the numerous cards, members of the committee made numerous telephone calls to congregation members, simply to chat and keep in contact. A new initiative in 2023 was to arrange the re-broadcast of our worship services at the Harvest Crossing Retirement Centre each week. In addition, once per month a member of the MFC Committee

attends at Harvest Crossing to meet with those residents who attend the re-broadcast. This is one method in which we can keep in touch with members for whom attendance at church is difficult.

Finally, in early 2023 we coordinated the delivery of our much-awaited Photo Directory.

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 ~ Brian Clark, Chair

The Ministry and Personnel Committee support and supervise the people employed by St. Paul's on a full time and part time basis. We are guided by the Constitution of St. Paul's and the Manual of the United Church of Canada and guided by Antler River Watershed Regional Council.

Rev. Karlene continues to lead the Congregation in Worship and in Pastoral Care. The warm welcome she creates has attracted new members to St. Paul's and her innovative Services keep everyone engaged in Worship as well as the work of our Church family.

Our Custodian, Desmond Palmer looks after the building and property and keeps it clean and in good condition. Desmond does many other things to care for the building and our groups who use the Church facilities and although they are not obvious, they are important and we thank Desmond for his diligence and care.

Helen Loehndorf keeps our Office running smoothly and efficiently and we are fortunate to have such a capable and friendly person in this key position. This year has presented additional challenges and Helen has met them with grace.

Karen Hodges supports our Sunday School and the children in our Congregation. She and her team of dedicated teachers care for our children and give them a Christian education each week. Karen is pursuing study to become a Licensed Lay Worship Leader.

Shelley Vermeersch enriches our Worship Service with her musical talents both on the electronic keyboard and the organ. She has provided us with a mix of upbeat contemporary Christian music as well as beautiful classical pieces. Shelley presents extra musical features at Christmas and Easter to enrich our worship experience.

St. Paul's is blessed by the continued support of our Voluntary Associate Ministers, Rev. Maurice Francis, Rev. Pat Cook and Rev. Bonnie Pilkey. All are retired ordained clergy.

The members of the M&P committee meet with each of our Staff to conduct Performance Reviews and to hear their goals for the year ahead. Our committee members this year were Debbie Beres, Brad Bennett, Brian Clark, Karen Helsdon, Marianne Ferris, Kelly Springer and Dave Morris. Thank you to each of them for their work on behalf of St. Paul's.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Clark, Chair

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT & SUNDAY SCHOOL ~ Brenda Marshall, Chair

The CD Committee had a great year. We have seventeen children and youth registered for our Sunday School with two new little ones joining us this year. Karen Hodges continued to work hard preparing lessons. We started the year learning the Parables, and in September started a new Curriculum called "52 Weeks of Learning". The lessons are divided up into the Church year. The lessons are going well with the help of teachers, Jeannette van Hoeve and Brenda Marshall.

Karen's Youth Group has met occasionally this past year, for breakfast, and sang Christmas Carols to the residents at Maple Manor and visited and delivered the cards. We are not sure what they have in store for 2024.

In November the children participated in Children's Sunday service with readings.

In December the Children presented their Christmas pageant with recitations, music and the Scripture reading. It was a great success.

We hope to keep the children involved in the service on the third Sunday of the month, for example lighting the Christ Candle, reading scriptures and the collection.

Karen Hodges celebrated ten years as Sunday School Coordinator in August and there was a very lovely presentation in November.

We hope in 2024 we will continue to stay safe and healthy.

Brenda Denham Marshall

BIBLE STUDY GROUP ~ Ruth Francis

In the first half of 2023, our Bible Study group met 16 times with an average attendance of 7. When we finished up at the end of April, we had completed our study of the Gospel of Matthew.

Due to extenuating circumstances, we were unable to begin again in the Fall much to the dismay of our group. We all miss the warm fellowship we shared around The Word of God.

Ruth Francis

PASTORAL CARE TEAM ~ LEADER: Rev. Pat Cook

Over the past year, the Pastoral Care Team have met on a monthly basis. We visit parishioners at the Retirement Homes, Nursing Homes, and shut-ins who are unable to attend our worship services or outreach groups. Our goal is to stay connected with the people, keep them informed about church events, and let them know they are still part of the church family.

We were happy to offer a Quiet Communion Service this past spring. We had a few parishioners attend. A Quiet Communion Service is offered to persons not able to attend the communion services offered at Sunday worship.

With Covid restrictions reduced Rev. Karlene, Rev. Maurice, and Rev. Pat were once again able to offer Communion Services to the Retirement Homes, Nursing Homes, and shut-ins this past year. We have very dedicated and committed committee members who visit St. Paul's parishioners on a regular basis. We look forward to visiting the members of our St. Paul's family in the coming year. If you know of someone from our congregation who is not being visited, please inform the church office, so we as a team can make contact with them.

Respectfully submitted:

Chair, Rev. Pat Cook

COMMUNITY KITCHEN 2023 ~ Laurie Drew/Keith & Julie Avery Coordinators

The Community Kitchen at St. Paul's continues to provide needed access to food not only for the unhoused in our community, but also for those who are experiencing the negative effects of inflation on the cost of housing, food and all other essential items required to maintain a basic standard of living.

The Community Kitchen at St. Paul's completed another eventful year providing food, fellowship and a sense of community for our guests each Saturday during the months of October through April. We continued with full, in person food service as we returned to a sense of normalcy in our daily routines following years of COVID disruption. Without the strength of our four teams, this would not have been possible.

September brought with it the sad news of the passing of Laurie Drew, our program founder and matriarch. Laurie saw a need in our community that was not being filled. This need prompted her to begin Community Kitchen in the 2010-2011 season. Over the years, Laurie developed positive relationships with many community partners and touched the lives of countless community members. It was Laurie's dream that this program would continue to serve the community of Tillsonburg even after she was physically not able to fully co-ordinate the program by herself. Laurie had been in the process of mentoring Julie and Keith on the particulars of the program, so that there would be a smooth transition as she slowly relinquished her duties in the coming years. Little did we know that the transition would occur so quickly.

Starting in October, Keith and Julie officially assumed the duties of coordinators of the St. Paul's Community Kitchen. This transition was easier due to the effort of our team leaders and their groups of volunteers. Julie and Keith assumed the role of team leaders for one of the groups. Dave Morris and Vermell Stevens continued in their roles as team leaders as well. Jed Drew stepped down from his team leader role due to health issues. He has continued to provide his leadership and wisdom to both Julie and Keith and to the new leader of his group, Laura McFarland. Keith and Julie would like to give a big thank you to all the leaders, volunteers, and Helen in the front office that have helped to make this year a relatively smooth transition.

The Community Kitchen is always in need of new volunteers. Anyone interested in helping out for a few hours one Saturday per month, please contact Keith or Julie at 519-403-4192.

In October, the Community Kitchen began offering a “takeout” option to our guests. For our guests who choose not to join us for the “sit down” service we are now offering the option of being able to grab a bagged takeout meal at the entrance door. We have also been able through our network of community connections at the Salvation Army and Annandale Public School Breakfast program, to provide the opportunity for our guests to take home fresh fruits and vegetables each week.

It also needs to be noted that the Community Kitchen has also received support in the form of donations and purchase discounts from the Tillsonburg Food Bank, Tillsonburg Customs Foods, Beres Butchery and Catering, Poultry Specialist’s and Shaw’s Ice cream.

The Community Kitchen has served about 60-65 individuals each week. Approximately 35-40 individuals join us for the seated service each week, while 10-15 opt for the “takeout” option. We also deliver 10-15 meals to church members in their homes. The increase in the number of takeout containers used on a weekly basis as well as the overall cost of food has placed increased pressure on the program budget. Moving forward we will need to investigate new streams of revenue to support the increased costs of our expanded program offerings.

Keith and Julie Avery
Coordinators,
Community Kitchen at St. Paul’s

MESSY CHURCH 2023 ~ Dave and Norma Collis

There are 4000 registered Messy Church programmes in 30 different countries. St. Paul’s Messy Church is one of those registered programmes. Messy Church was started in 2004 near Portsmouth England by Lucy Moore. The first Canadian Messy Church was launched in 2007 in Georgetown Ontario.

At St. Paul’s we follow the principles of this programme that states that Messy Church is a form of church for children and adults that involves, creativity, celebration, hospitality and fun.

It is usually an “in person” event at a place and time that suits the community – but not usually on Sunday mornings. It is a church for people at all stages of their faith journey. It models and promotes good ways of growing as a family (both nuclear and

extended). Messy Church is not a stepping stone into existing congregations. It is a congregation in its own right.

St. Paul's Messy Church meets on the first Saturday of the month with an average attendance of 52 persons while approximately 42 families appear on our current register. We are able to meet due to our faithful core of 12 dedicated volunteers plus other visiting volunteers. Other volunteers work behind the scenes helping with craft preparation at their homes and acquiring craft materials from various sources.

We set up on Friday afternoons and our set up time of approximately 3 hours has been reduced considerably thanks to Desmond Palmer who ensures that the room is set up in a way that allows the programme to run smoothly. We also very much appreciate the Community Kitchen teams who cheerfully feed an additional 50 plus Messy church participants as well as their own patrons. Messy Church provides drinks, snacks and dessert.

Our Messy church families represent a wide range of community members from all walks of life and include some families from outside the town proper. People out in the community recognize and greet Rev. Karlene as their Messy Church minister.

We are a "family" we are a congregation.

We wish to thank our church council and other individuals who contribute to the financial needs of this programme.

Dave and Norma Collis

VAM REPORT 2023 ~ PAT COOK

One of my favourite scripture texts is from II Timothy. It is a passage about a call to discipleship and an affirmation of faith. Timothy was taught and received his sincere faith from his mother Lois and grandmother Eunice. In this passage, the Apostle Paul hopes to inspire and strengthen Timothy's confidence and his faith, as Timothy prepares to travel afar and begin to fulfill his ministry.

I think of this scripture text as I serve as a VAM at St. Paul's. We never stop growing in faith or providing a ministry to others, as we continue our journey in life. I enjoy serving in the various capacities to help fulfill the ministry of St. Paul's community.

I would like to thank St. Paul's for letting me serve as one of their Voluntary Associate Ministers over the past years. I continue to offer my ministry as a faithful servant of God.

VAM ~ MAURICE FRANCIS

I continue to give my blessings to the ongoing life and work at St Paul's.

VAM REPORT 2023 ~ BONNIE PILKEY

Reflections...

During this past year I have literally been here, there and everywhere, as I continue to live out my call as an ordained minister, who is "supposed" to be retired!

But in the midst of my commitments, God has called me to be a part of this church family and so I participate as much as I possibly can. Thank you for your patience and understanding in this regard!

Although I am not able to be at worship every Sunday, I am well aware that 2023 has been a year of tremendous challenges for St Paul's folks, as many of you are struggling with the loss of loved ones who are family, or friends who felt like family. Please know that you have been in my prayers.

As someone who also has been on her own grief journey, I have become committed to the value of peer bereavement groups and have been able to utilize my ministry and social work background to assist me in facilitating groups.

It is my hope that early in this year, we will start a similar group here at St Paul's. The group will be an informal and safe place for people to gather who have lost a loved one. We are Christians and so it will be faith based, as we look to Scripture for guidance and healing. There will also be space for laughter, tears and remembering, as we share our stories and take this challenging journey together. Please watch the bulletin for details coming soon!

Thank you for the privilege of serving as one of your Voluntary Associate Ministers this past year. I have particularly enjoyed our times together when I have had the opportunity to lead worship. Truly the Spirit is alive in this faith community!

Blessings & Peace for 2024

Rev. Bonnie Pilkey

PROPERTY COMMITTEE 2023 ~ 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 the 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 the Church Council, and arranging volunteer work parties.

In keeping with the ongoing review of Accessibility, the need for a fully accessible washroom for the Church has been identified. A plan to convert the Men's Washroom on the Main floor of the Church to a fully accessible washroom for all has been approved by Church Council as recommended by the Property Committee. Estimates are in the process of being obtained. Higher toilets have been installed in the washrooms on the main floor of the Church.

One of the largest Budget items for St. Paul's is the Utility Costs, particularly Natural Gas costs for heating. The heating system is being monitored and adjusted to use less fuel. We can report that Natural Gas usage has been reduced. Unfortunately, natural gas unit costs have continued to rise. Efforts will continue to find ways to reduce energy costs where feasible.

Thanks to the Property Committee members- Ron Stafford, Bonnie Stafford, Bob Jenney, Reg Butcher, Floyd Marshall, Desmond Palmer, and Barb Aubrey – for their continued service to St. Paul's. A special thanks to Desmond for his continued high standard of caretaking of the Church.

Dave Morris, Chair

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT 2023

As God's people St. Paul's United Church continues to actively practice Stewardship in our community and beyond including the Mission and Service of the United Church of Canada. The membership of this committee is now at one person with the passing of our treasurer Laurie Drew. We however give thanks that we are still able to be proactive in our community and the UCC at large. Special thanks to Marianne Ferris who continues to spearhead our Adopt-a-Family program each year.

The special offerings throughout the year enabled St. Paul's to support the following local community programs (Community Kitchen, Domestic Abuse Oxford (DASO), Helping Hands Food Bank, Salvation Army Tillsonburg, Sakura House) as well as the following United Church sponsored programs (United Church of Canada World Development, Camp Tanner, Operation Sharing Woodstock, Canadian Food Grains Bank, Turkish Earthquake relief, and the Israeli/Gaza relief) The amounts contributed are to be found in the Financial Report. There were a few special projects in our local community.

- We participated in the Salvation Army's Christmas Adopt-a-Family program by adopting four families.
- We also collected cash and pillows that allowed the team at Harvey Woods Loft Woodstock to gift eighty-five of their clients' pillows and cases.
- Amid our own challenges, St. Paul's was faithful in continuing its support to the United Church of Canada Mission and Service Fund with the sum of \$ 24,688.50 for the year as well as the contribution from the UCW of \$5,000.00 for the year.

We are thankful that God continues to provide us with committed givers and opportunities to be creative where we can garner the much-needed funds and be able to assist others. As a church our aim is to faithfully continue making a difference in our community and beyond and live out our commitment to be a community minded Christian congregation called to serve God by serving others. Special thanks to our Administrative Assistant, Helen, and, all others who work together to make the work of the Stewardship committee possible.

Blessings,
Rev'd Karlene Brown-Palmer

ST. PAUL'S ARCHIVES ~ Beth Sandor, Archivist

Throughout 2023, information about church events continued to be added to the archive binders that are stored in the cupboards. For many of the events and special Sundays, photo collages continued to be displayed on the board at the back of the church. The most recent binder and other items of interest are displayed in the table in the archive area.

In 2022, Helen Loehndorf attended training about the United Church's national archives and was provided with direction as to what materials from St. Paul's archives and office records should be moved to the national archives. To assist with this project, Laurie Surette was hired through the Multi-service centre.

She worked at the church for 15 hours a week for a total of 8 weeks during July and August 2023. Laurie sorted, shredded and compiled documents from the boxes in the attic and storage room for office archiving and kept pertinent files for permanent file retention to be sent to the United Church Archives in Toronto. 90% of Laurie's wages were provided through a grant received from the Ministry of Labour & Training Incentive program.

During the summer, Beth Sandor and Barb Aubrey went through all of the materials in the archives area and sorted them according to the guidelines provided by the national archives. Six boxes of materials have been packed up, labelled and are ready to be shipped to the national archives. A list of the box contents is stored in the archive cupboards. All of the binders of church events have been retained, intact, in our archives. The decision was made to keep these materials because if they were sent off to national archives, only representative portions of the information contained in them would have been kept. Other materials from the past 7 years have also been retained in our own archives as per the instructions from the national archives.

Eventually, materials sent to the national archives will be catalogued and placed into a data base so that they can be viewed and searched digitally. With the bulk of the materials removed to be sent off, the space concern for the church archive area has been eliminated.

Materials that St. Paul's members have for our archives can be placed on the table in the archives area or in the Archives file folder outside the church office door.

Beth Sandor

ST. PAUL'S SOUND SYSTEM ~ Bonnie Stafford



The sound system has performed well this year. We would like to welcome Finn Jackson as part of our sound crew.

Welcome to Bella Jackson for volunteering to be part of the projection team.

Without volunteers we cannot bring you great sound and your worship service up on the screens. Thank you for your ongoing help everyone!



A.O.T.S. (As One That Serves) MEN'S CLUB 2023

As we look back over the past 12 months, we have to acknowledge that it has been a unique kind of year. We started off with our usual Sunday morning Breakfast meetings on January 22. During the year we decided to augment our quarterly breakfast meetings with a less formal breakfast meeting for men only at a local restaurant. We had one major fund raiser in 2023. Our popular Spaghetti dinner on March 25 raised over \$1800.00. This allowed us to continue to support the youth in our community through the Upper Deck, Tillsonburg minor baseball, Camp Tanner, Helping Hands Food bank and St. Paul's Community Kitchen. We teamed up with the Tillsonburg Sailing Association and through the combined club executives we were able to make donations to Helping Hands Food bank, St. Paul's Community kitchen and special projects at St. Paul's Church. At Christmas we were able to help a grandmother with a donation of Christmas gifts for her 2 grandsons that she had taken in after they had become homeless. We tried another new project by which we wanted to attract more men to our group. We wanted to encourage young boys with their dads or grandpas or other men to get together for some fun. We featured a Saturday afternoon event at the Upper Deck with lots of games and food. Unfortunately, only a very few gathered. We are hoping to try it again in 2024 but at a different time and using a different format.

The Annual AOTS Church service on Nov 19 featuring our guest speaker Barrie Bains from St. James UC in Simcoe and music provided by Doug Walters was a great success. After the service we had a special cake for all the members of the congregation to help us celebrate the club's 30 years since our beginning in 1993. One issue that attracted a fair bit of interest was the discussion surrounding whether St. Paul's A.O.T.S. membership would be open to men only or would women be included as full members. The matter was resolved at our October meeting, when the motion passed deciding that full membership would be for men only, while Woman would be offered an associate membership and welcome to attend functions that were designated for men and women. On behalf of the executive of St. Paul's we would like to thank the congregation for their continued support.

Respectfully Submitted,

AOTS 2023-24 Executive.

Dave Morris, Dave Collis, Maurice Francis, Floyd Marshall & Ron Stafford



~ The United Church Women 2023 - Shirley Godfree, President

Prior to 2023, there were two UCW Units. However, this year has seen the amalgamation of these two units into one. For a time, we limped along without a leader. But later in the year Laura Mahoney volunteered to take this position. Under her capable leadership we move forward.

Following Covid the UCW has progressed from online meetings to hybrid meetings and at last to in person meetings. We hope that we will be able to continue in this fashion. We are very pleased to worship and share with one another again.

We did keep up our fundraising throughout Covid. The funds from these endeavours are used to support over twelve charities. One of the National UCW projects this year was the Healing Fund. The Healing Fund supports initiatives for survivors of the residential school system and its ongoing intergenerational impacts through a Grant Application process. Many survivors name a need for mending, restoring, and celebrating — acknowledging a sense of loss, along with hope for rebuilding identity. Support for The Healing Fund is a step in living out the apologies the church has made to Indigenous peoples. 2022 – 2027 UCW's Special Project, selected this September, runs for the next five years leading up to our 65th Anniversary in 2027.

To fund our charities and projects we had several fund-raising events. We had a bake sale in conjunction with the church June garage sale. We added the sale of water, coffee, and muffins to the roster. And as in previous years we sold geraniums and Rheo Thompson Chocolate. In addition, we had our annual bazaar coordinated by Julie Avery. These events were very successful. We thank the congregation for their continued support.

In May we celebrated UCW Sunday. Sheila Greason was our guest speaker. Her theme was Camp Tanner. She told of her experiences and fun occurrences of supervising this camp. Cake and refreshments followed her presentation.

Two of our members, Beth Sandor and Mary Johnson, were honoured with Life memberships for their ongoing contributions to the UCW.

We ended the year by distributing cookies to our shut-ins and those living in retirement and nursing homes. Each tin included a Christmas card made by the Sunday School and Messy Church kids.

We look forward to 2024 as we continue to honour our UCW Purpose. And we offer special thanks to Helen for her assistance and Rev. Karlene for her thoughts and prayers.

U.C.W. ARCHIVES ~ Beth Sandor Archivist

Photographs and information pertaining to U.C.W. events continue to be archived in the annual binders which, when full, are stored in the archive cupboards. Collages of some special U.C.W. events, such as U.C.W. Sunday and the Frosty Fair Bazaar have been placed on display in the archives area. With the return to in-person meetings, there has been more material for the archives than there has been in the past couple of years. With the amalgamation of Units 1 and 6, there is now a single U.C.W. group and this is reflected in the archival records.

Beth Sandor
UCW Archivist

ST. PAUL'S U.C.W. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS FOR 2024

Past President	Fran Bell
President	Shirley Godfree
Secretary	Fran Bell
Treasurer	Mary Hessler
Assistant Treasurer	Margaret Betty
Stewardship	Sheila McKibbin
Archives	Barbara Aubrey, Elizabeth Sandor
Advisors	Jean Mills Carol Morling Esther Sol
Honorary Advisor	Doreen Smith
Auditor	Irene Gillespie

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

UCW PURPOSE

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit rest upon all the work done in God's name.

May God give us light to guide us, courage to support us, and love to unite us, now and forever. Amen.

UCW BENEDICTION

ST PAULS' UNITED CHURCH WOMEN FINANCIAL REPORT

December 31, 2023

Asset Balance as of

December 31, 2022

\$18,752.23

DECEMBER

Year To Date

Current Account Balance carried forward from 2022

\$ 5,906.37

Receipts:

UCW Projects	\$7,525.32
UCW Offering	\$2,917.00
UCW Membership	\$240.00
Special Project Healing Fund	\$290.00
Other Receipts	\$500.00
Bazaar (incl. \$ 845 Float)	\$6,521.60
Misc. and Donations	\$3,412.00
Transfer from Savings	\$0.00
Savings Acct. Interest	\$0.00
GIC Interest	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$21,405.92

Expenses:

Bank Charges	\$23.00
UCW Projects	\$3,928.08
Charity Donations	\$4,200.00
Funeral Supplies	\$0.00
Kitchen Supplies	\$0.00
Flowers	\$0.00
Special Proj: Healing Fund	\$290.00
Mission & Service	\$5,000.00
Bazaar	\$906.38
Bibles & Literature	\$0.00
Speakers & Gifts	\$695.00
Stationery + Office Supplies	\$100.00
St. Paul's – Refurbishment	\$0.00
St. Paul's – Other	\$0.00
Membership to Presbyterial	\$240.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,920.00
TOTAL	\$17,302.46

2023 BALANCE

\$4,103.46

Balance On Hand

Current Account	\$10,009.83
Savings Acct.	\$5,203.54
GIC Matures July 10, 2024 @ 5 %	\$7,815.91
TOTAL ASSETS	\$23,029.28

Note: TOTAL ASSETS includes \$15.56 accrued savings acc't interest + \$158.03 GIC interest in 2023

Total for the memorial fund is included in the current account

\$115.48

First Ontario Credit union share account

\$60.00

2024 UCW Budget

Nov. 22, 2023

RECEIPTS	Bank Interest (savings & GIC)	\$15
	UCW Projects	\$6,500
	Offering	\$2,600
	Membership	\$240
	Special Project	\$290
	Bazaar	\$2,000
	Miscellaneous or Donations	\$0
	TOAL BUDGET RECEIPTS	\$11,645
EXPENSES	Bank Charges	\$50
	UCW Projects	\$3,000
	Camp	\$200
	Camp (Sponsor Camper)	\$425
	Community Kitchen	\$200
	D.A.S.O.	\$0
	Five Oaks Centre	\$100
	Food Bank	\$500
	Medical Electives	\$0
	Messy Church	\$200
	Mission & Services	\$6,000
	Sakura house	\$300
	Salvation Army Tillsonburg	\$600
	Special Project	\$290
	Victoria's Quilts Tillsonburg	\$250
	Youth For Christ Tillsonburg	\$250
	World Relief	\$1,000
	Kitchen Supply & Repair	\$100
	Flowers	\$75
	Bazaar	\$500
	Bibles & Literature	\$0
	Speakers & Gifts	\$580
	Stationery	\$60
	St Pauls' Office Supplies	\$100
	St Paul's Refurbishment	
	St Pauls' Other	
	St Paul's Emergency Fund	
	Membership	\$240
	Miscellaneous	\$50

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$15,070
Total Receipts	\$11,645
Total Expenses	\$15,070
Transfer From Reserves To Balance The Budget	\$3,425

**ST. PAUL'S UCW
MISSION AND OUTREACH FOR 2023**

Camp Tanner	\$200
Camp Tanner -- Sponsor 1 Camper	\$425
Community Kitchen	\$200
DASO (Domestic Abuse Services Oxford)	\$100
Five Oaks Centre (retreat center for all faiths)	\$100
Helping Hand Food Bank	\$500
Messy Church	\$200
Mission & Services (in Canada and abroad)	\$5,000
Sakura house (hospice for end-of-life care)	\$300
Salvation Army Tillsonburg	\$600
Special Project (Indigenous Healing fund)	\$290
Victoria's Quilts (Quilts for cancer patients)	\$250
World Relief (Middle East Crisis)	\$1,000
Youth For Christ Tillsonburg (Upper Deck)	\$250
Funds for a student's university expenses	\$1,345
	\$10,760



FINANCE COMMITTEE ~ Ron Wycherley, Chair

The finance committee faced some huge challenges in 2023 with the loss of Doug Franklin and Laurie Drew. Fortunately Roger Betty and Deb Wycherley continued with their commitment on a regular basis. Thanks also to Indira Reynolds, Marianne Ferris, Anne Galeckas and Rita Van Lamoen for stepping in as Sunday helpers. Things are working quite smoothly thanks to this group.

Ron Wycherley, Chair

ACTING TREASURER'S REPORT ~ Ron Wycherley

The past year has continued to present challenges that our Church saw in the previous two years. Our operational expenses keep rising as our available income remains relatively the same. We unfortunately find ourselves in a deficit position again as we head into 2024. I hope everyone will have a close look at the budget Jed Drew carefully prepared, while honouring the requirements requested by the committees.

I would like to thank both our Administrative Assistant, Helen Loehndorf, and Jed Drew, for their valuable support and guidance. I certainly appreciated their assistance in the last few months.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Wycherley,
Acting Treasurer

Church Council 2024

Acting Chair: Mary Anne Silverthorn

Chair: Jed Drew (LOA undetermined length of time)

Past Chair: Brian Clark

Recording Secretary: Debbie Beres

Acting Treasurer: Ron Wycherley

Treasurer: (effective Date TBD) - Dianne McPherson

Assistant Treasurer: Doreen Smith (Honorary)

Clergy: Rev'd Karlene Brown-Palmer

Committee Chairs

Christian Development: Brenda Marshall

Finance: Ron Wycherley

Membership Fellowship & Care: Jed Drew

Ministry and Personnel: Marianne Ferris

Property: Dave Morris

ARW Regional Council Reps: Marianne Ferris, Mary Anne Silverthorn, 1 vacancy

Stewardship:

Trustees: Brian Clark

Worship: Mary Anne Silverthorn

UCW: Shirley Godfree

AOTS: Dave Morris

Voluntary Associate Ministers – Rev. Pat Cook, Rev. Maurice Francis, Rev. Bonnie Pilkey

Committee Members:

Christian Development - Marianne Ferris, Karen Hodges, Lesley Jackson

Finance – Treasurer, Roger and Margaret Betty, Jed Drew, Doreen Smith (Honorary), Deb Wycherley

Membership, Fellowship and Care - Karon Harris, Mary Hessler, Dianne Parnell

Ministry and Personnel – Brad Bennett, Debbie Beres, Brian Clark, Karen Helsdon, Dave Morris, Kelly Springer

Property - Bob Jenny, Floyd Marshall, Desmond Palmer, (Custodian), Barb Aubrey, (UCW), Bonnie Stafford, Ron Stafford,

Worship - Dave Collis (Messy Church), Carol Crocker (Choir), Karen Hodges, Dag Morris (Greeters), Dianne Parnell, Doreen Smith, Bonnie Stafford - (Sound)

Other:

Co-Archivists: Barb Aubrey, Beth Sandor

Communion Preparation: covered by Worship

Flowers for the sanctuary: covered by Worship

Live Streaming: Floyd Marshall, Dave Morris, Adriaan van Hove, Cory Ling.

Pastoral Care: Fran Bell, Rev. Pat Cook, Rev. Maurice Francis, Sheila McKibbin, Dianne Parnell, Doreen Smith

Projectionists: Debbie Beres, Dorell Clark, Bella Jackson.

Sound System: Brian Clark, Bonnie Stafford, Wayne Beard.

Sunday Counters: Deb Wycherley, Roger Betty, Indira Reynolds, Marianne Ferris, Anne Galeckas and Rita Van Lamoen

NOTES:
