

Fall/Winter
November, 2011



ST. PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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From The Minister's Desk

Quite a number of people have asked me recently: "How do you feel about retiring?" The answer is that I don't really know and probably won't know until I get there. When I started in ministry some 45 years ago, retirement was not really a concept with which I was familiar. Not because I was young and far from retirement but simply because so many ministers in the Church of Scotland back then did not retire. Like my father, they went on into their 80s and 90s. Many could not financially afford to retire and, anyway, they felt that ministry was a life calling. They thought of it as a vocation one practised until the day one was called to higher places. I always remember conducting services at a small rural church in Scotland. In the pulpit was a little plaque which said, "The Reverend Moses Taggart died here after delivering the sermon on Easter Sunday, 1898, at the age of 104."

So, although, come the beginning of February, I will no longer be the Minister of St. Paul's, I will certainly not be retiring, if retiring means a state of doing nothing. On the contrary, I see myself as continuing in ministry albeit in a different way. What that "different way" will be is yet to be revealed. To me as much as to anyone else. But I trust in God that he will lead me—and Evelyn—into the future. And I trust in God that he will lead also St. Paul's into the future.

Any period of transition can be a scary and difficult time as we step from the known into the unknown. But there are certain things of which I think we can be certain. As much as St. Paul's is in God's hands, it will also be in the very capable and experienced hands of our interim moderator, the Rev. Tom Cunningham of St. Giles, who will lead the Session and Congregation as necessary and important decisions are made for the future of our church.

I am also confident that, in time, God will lead this congregation to call the minister best suited to meeting the challenges of St. Paul's. When Elsie Flett retired as Director of Music, we wondered who on earth could ever replace her. But, then, God brought Douglas Schalin to us. When Evelyn Turner retired as church secretary, we wondered who on earth could ever replace her. But then God brought Elaine Kempt to us. In time, therefore, God will lead St. Paul's to the right minister—male or female—who will lead St. Paul's forward and chart new paths for this Christian community at the centre of the city. And, course, the right minister will be the one, like Rev. Calder and myself, agrees to stay for 25 years!

Going back to our Remembrance Service on the 6th November, as you noticed, we included on the Honour Roll, for the first time, not just those members of our congregation who died in time of war but also those family members of present day members of our congregation who also made the ultimate sacrifice. If you have a family member who was killed in action during time of war, please contact the church office so that their name may also be included on the Honour Roll at future Remembrance Services in our church.

As you will see from other parts of this newsletter, we have some wonderful Christmas services and events coming up in the next few weeks. Wonderful music. Wonderful times of fellowship. Wonderful opportunities to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Please do make a point of coming and joining with us at this most special time of the year—and don't forget to encourage family and friends to come with you.

Most of all, may you have a very peaceful and blessed Christmas!

George A. Turner

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Thanks to the marvellous generosity of our members, we are thrilled to report that our, "Eggs for India" project is thriving! In October, \$97.08 was donated and, in November, \$137.65. This means that, in India, children will receive nourishment not otherwise available to them. It reminded our committee members of what Mohandas

K. Gandhi, the great Indian leader said of our faith: "If Christians would really live according to the teachings of Christ as found in The Bible, all India would be Christian today!"

Christmas is fast approaching, and we're hard at work preparing for our Annual Sunday School Christmas Luncheon on Sunday, December 11th. Our children would love your support by attending, joining with them in Christmas carols and, perhaps, you might like to read - or tell - a Christmas story - or recite a favourite Christmas poem. Maybe some of you would like to form a quartet or ensemble - or perform a comedy skit, to entertain. We know Douglas would be happy to accompany any group - and your contribution would be most welcome and entertaining. Your participation will provide much-needed encouragement for the children in manifesting the joys of Christian fellowship.

If you'd like to take part (and we sincerely hope you will), please chat with Committee Chairperson, Carol Anderson; call her at home, (705) 743-7193, or e-mail her at canderson231@cogeco.ca

Now for our luncheon menu: We're serving baked potatoes topped with chili or chicken, a garden salad, ice cream and, of course, Christmas goodies!

We're very excited to report that Kady Denton has offered to come to our Sunday School for a few Sundays, to help the children create some Christmas crafts. Kady is an expert in crafts work, and we know the children will love learning from her - and, the excitement of creating their very own Christmas crafts.

On behalf of all the hard-working members of your Christian Education Committee - who make my chairpersonship a joy, I thank you all for being such a supportive congregation. We wish you one and all, the very Merriest of Christmases, followed by a New Year filled with joy, love, and contentment.

Carol Anderson, Chairperson.

Reports and Financial Statements for the Annual Report should reach the office no later than January 6th. It would be much appreciated if these can be sent in Word format by email to stpaulspeterborough@hotmail.com

CHRISTMAS FAIR

It is hard to think about the Christmas Fair when nice temperatures are still telling us it's fall. However, think about it we shall!

We have decided to change the date from the last Saturday in November to Saturday, November 19. In



previous years, the last Saturday conflicted with the "Festival of Trees" and as this has been moved to the downtown core this year, we feel it might conflict even more.

Saturday, November 19

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

COFFEE, MUFFINS, SCONES

PULLED PORK OR

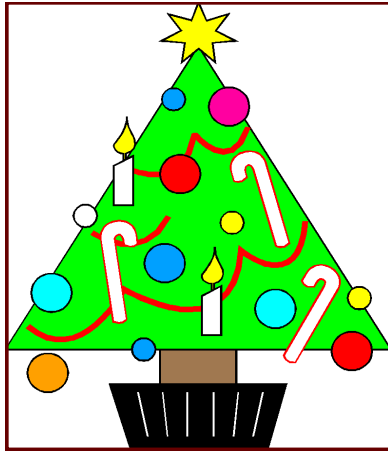
ROAST BEEF ON A BUN,

SQUARES

will be served at a reasonable cost.

**DELI, BAKING, CANDY, CHICKEN
AND MEAT PIES, JAMS, PICKLES,
NEW-TO-YOU**

Please make a note of the date, donate what you can, but — most of all — come along and enjoy the day!



FINANCIAL REPORT

To end of October 2011

Income \$118,800

From Trustees \$36,000 plus an additional \$10,000 received in November not included in the income to end of October.

Total income \$154,800

Total Expenditure \$155,600

We have sent \$4,000 to Presbyterians Sharing towards our allocation of \$10,000. We have also sent \$500 to P.W.S. & D.

We have tried to keep expenditure down as much as possible but costs are rising as you well know - in particular, hydro costs which have risen by almost \$200 per month over the past few months.

We would encourage you to give a special donation at Christmas if you can to help us meet our obligations without resorting to additional funds from the Trustees. We fully realise that many of you cannot increase your givings, but even a little from everyone would help.

Thank you to all our committed members who have given so generously during the year. It is much appreciated.

Graham Lewis

Treasurer

PRESBYTERIAN RECORD

It is time to renew the Presbyterian Record for 2012. If you would like to renew your subscription (\$22) - and we hope that you will—or order a new subscription, please give your name, together with the amount due, to the office as soon as possible or before December 15, 2011

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Sponsored by the C. E. Committee
SUNDAY DECEMBER 11, 2011
immediately following the service



*Join us for lunch - Baked Potatoes—topped with chili or chicken, a garden salad, ice cream and, of course, Christmas goodies.
~ Christmas programme ~*

Freewill offering for the support of our foster child

LOST CHRISTMAS

Somewhere buried under tissue,
Bent beneath the load
Of our hurried, harried giving,
Christmas lost the road.

Christmas that was sweet and simple,
With a song, a star,
Christmas that was hushed and holy,
Seems so far!

Let us stop and look for Christmas:
Maybe if we tried,
We could find it somewhere under
All the gifts we tied.

Christmas waiting, wistful, weary,
May be very near—
Christmas lost, a little lonely,
Wishing to be here.

- Helen Frazee Bower

BETHLEHEM 'LIVE

December 17 & 18, 2011

6, 7 & 8 p.m.

This will be the 23rd year when the members of St. Paul's congregation will be presenting "Bethlehem Live" in Victoria Park. There will be three performances each night at 6:00, 7:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Volunteers from the congregation are needed to provide the cast for this event. Congregational members are required to fill the 20 villager and 6 angel roles for the three performances each night. Cast members are requested to be at the church at 5:00 p.m. Sign up sheets will be posted in the Guild Room. If we do not fill the number of required roles, we will be extending an open invitation to the other Presbyterian congregations in Peterborough to join with us.

Donations of squares, loaves or cookies for cast and crew refreshments for each of the two nights would be appreciated!

For further information or to volunteer for a specific date, please contact Elaine Flett-Hurst at 292-5062 or the church office 745-1411.

Please come and join with us as we celebrate the true spiritual meaning of Christmas with our production of "Bethlehem 'Live'".

Elaine Flett-Hurst , Don Giles



DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, November 19 10 am - 1 pm	CHRISTMAS FAIR Join us in making this the best Christmas Fair yet! Barbeque Pork/Beef on a Bun will be on sale during the event.
Sunday, November 20th 10:00 am	SCOTTISH SERVICE Celebrating our Scottish heritage, with Scottish goodies served during Coffee time afterwards
Sunday, November 27th 10 am	FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT Service of Holy Communion
Sunday, December 4th 10 am	SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT with Angelica Ottewill playing special Christmas music on the harp
Sunday, December 11th 10 a.m. 11:30 am 2:30 pm	SERVICE OF READINGS AND CAROLS CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE Here in St. Paul's
Sat/Sun 17 17/18 Dec. 6, 7 & 8 pm.	BETHLEHEM 'LIVE in Victoria Park Preceded by carol singing
Saturday December 24 7:00 pm	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE A family service with a celebration of Holy Communion
Sunday December 25 10 am	SERVICE OF WORSHIP Join us for worship on this special day to celebrate Christ's birth



Mission and Outreach

Another calendar year is drawing to a close and taking a moment to reflect on our church's impact on the community and around the world seems appropriate. Our goal at the beginning of the year was to bring awareness to the

many different ways we as a church serve the community and God's kingdom, and to make sure this work, in its many facets, was encouraged, given attention, and applauded in the effort – I hope we have accomplished this.

We acknowledge that we have many helping hands from other committees, church groups, and dedicated individuals in pursuit of the Mission and Outreach function at St. Paul's, and that makes light work for our committee, The Christian Education Committee is to be applauded for the work it has carried out with the Eggs for India project, and the sponsorship of child in Burkina Faso. The Community Kitchen committee is recognized for the tireless work of feeding those less fortunate in our community one night a week, with our other community churches. The Women's Mission Society and Ladies' Aid have provided assistance to our Presbyterian missionaries around the world, and visitation and cards and letters to our shut-ins and those in our congregation who are unable to join us on Sunday mornings. The Bethlehem Live committee is just now gearing to a faster pace to stage the annual live pageant in Victoria Park, which brings meaning to the Christmas season for the whole community. We now have brochures around town at all of the principal inns and tourist spots, which advise visitors and residents alike of the inviting atmosphere of one of Peterborough's landmark churches. And, St. Paul's is home to many community service groups during the week, which keeps the church central to the needs of the community. In all of these ways, we as a church are serving God's purpose.

Mission and Outreach is exploring other ways we can expand our relevance in the community and around the world. We would like to solve the question of how to reach out to the population of university and college students in our neighbourhood. Is there a niche service we can be providing to them to enrich their college years and provide them with a spiritual home away from home? We would like to see more of our elder church members who no longer drive find assistance to attend Sunday service We would like to see our church facilities used more often during the week for other community events and by other community groups. Our driving motivation is the story of the last words of advice an elderly gentleman had given to his grandson in answer to the question, "How do I make a success of my life, like you did?" The old man's reply was just two words. "Be necessary."

Are we, as a church, doing everything we can in our community, country, and world to be necessary? If you have an idea, or see a community need that St. Paul's might fill in some capacity, whether you have the personal time or physical capacity yourself to take it on, please speak to us or in some way let us know about the unfilled need you have found and let us pray and work together on a possible solution. We cannot outgive God, and what I know of our Father in Heaven is that He never gives us more than we can bear. However, He is constantly calling us to come up, higher—to reach our full potential. We are doing a laudable job as a church in serving our calling to service, But, there is always more that we can be doing. Our success is in "Being necessary".

Eric Prugh, Chairman of Mission and Outreach Committee,



PETERBOROUGH COMMUNITY CAROL SING

Sunday, December 11th, 2011

2:30 to 4 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of music, led by choir and band,

To sign Traditional Carols of the Season

Special Guests: Donna Bennett & Brian Finley

Major John Murray Public Relations from Salvation Army

Graham Hart

Peterborough Salvation Army Band—Ron Reid, BandMaster

Choirs from Local Churches

Director Giles Bryant—Organist Douglas Schalin



A Special Offering will be taken with proceeds going to the Peterborough Salvation Army Christmas Hamper Fund