



The Grapevine

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

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ADVENT/CHRISTMAS ISSUE NO. 109 DECEMBER 2024



May God bless you this Christmas, and in the New Year!



I am from the very first group of children to watch Sesame Street when it premiered on PBS in 1970. So, Sesame Street has always held a special place in my heart. Perhaps this is why when the original cast did a Christmas special with the song, “Keep Christmas with you all through the year”, it made a big impression on me. Although it is a secular song, there is a timeless message in it for all of us.

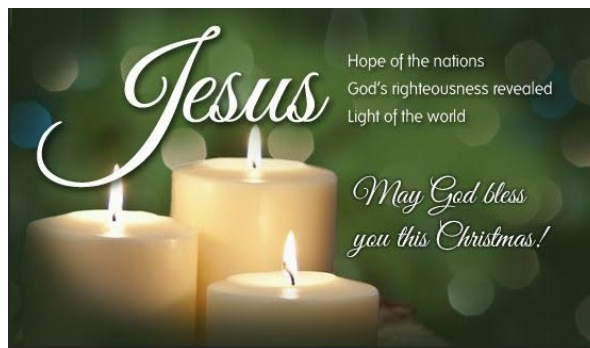
When you think of Christmas, what words or emotions does it bring to mind for you? Perhaps happiness, sharing, giving, generosity, joy, love, peace or hope are in the mix of words that you thought of. If we are able to keep even one of those words as the focus for our lives, “all through the year”, think of how different our lives and our relationships with others could be.

Some people think that Christmas is a magical time because the world seems so special then. I wonder if those people realize that what makes it so “magical” is our collective desire to be more Christ-like. Peace, joy, love, hope, the Church’s focus for the weeks of Advent, are all attributes that are possible to be sustained long-term in the human heart through a life spent with Jesus. His ability to be the Saviour of the world, his sacrifice and death, could not have happened unless he was born. This is what makes Christmas so special, all of those words that we use to describe Christmas found perfection in the miracle of Jesus’ birth in the manger that Holy night so long ago.

In a few short weeks, we will all keep Christmas in our own ways, whether visiting with family & friends, or quietly at home. However Christmas comes to you, I hope that you take time, wherever you are, to reflect on how special Christmas is because of Jesus. My prayer for you this Advent & Christmas is two-fold: that you take time to gather with Christians in worship, either here at St. Paul’s or at a church where you are visiting; and that you try this year to keep Christmas with you all through the year.

In Christian love,

Rev. Bonnie



Dec. 1/24: Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony



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Updated Dec. 2024

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The Canon's Corner: The Rev. Canon Greg Physick Dec. '24



This is not the forum for 'letting loose' on various issues of our day, be they of Church or State. Whether about political correctness, economy, war, our government or that of the US enough words fill social media and chatter around our tables and at parties. So it is, I leave the State aside and speak about Church & Faith. Our Church gives us the season of Advent to prepare to celebrate the birth of the one who is, who was and who is to come. (Rev. 1:8) These words were heard at the end of November on The Reign of Christ Sunday --also known as Christ the King Sunday. It is this Christ Jesus who is spoken of as the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end. Strong words to ponder, not just now but always.

St. Teresa of Avila, a 16th century Spanish nun and known as a Christian Mystic as a result of her writings of divine encounters, has these words attributed to her—in a moment of shaking her fist at the heavens, at God: 'if this is how you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few'.

In this challenging time for so many, I offer these few words of this saint (Feast Day, Oct. 15) for our journey to the manger, our time to celebrate the birth of the King.

"Let us realize that we have within us a most splendid palace....within this palace dwells the mighty King who has deigned to become your Father and who is seated on a throne of priceless value, by which I mean your heart. Had I understood always, as I do now, that so great a King resided in my soul, I should not have left him alone so often, but should have stayed with him sometimes and not kept his dwelling-place in such disorder." From Living Water: Daily Readings with St. Teresa of Avila

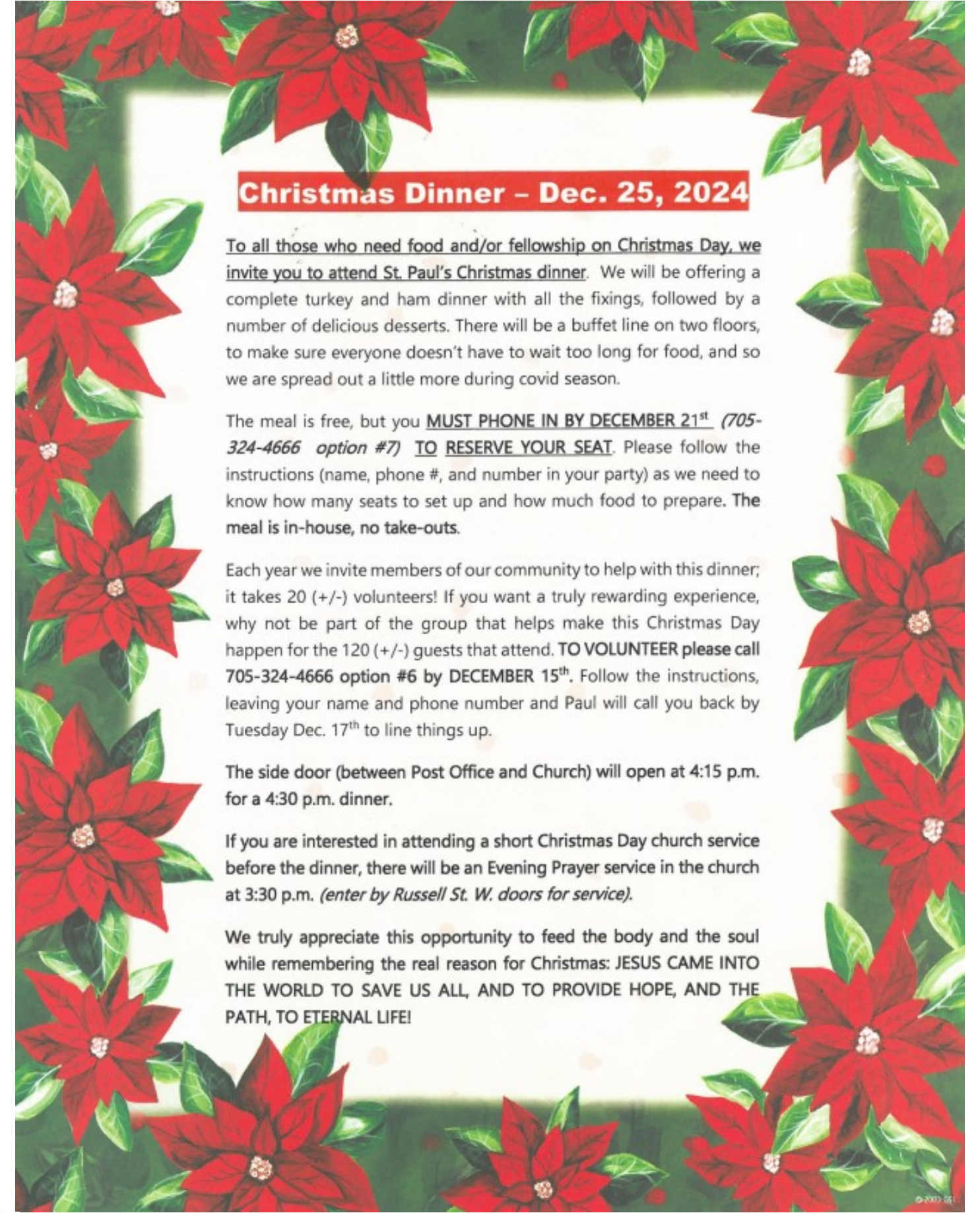
May the Advent & Christmas be renewing times for us. May we grow in the belief that in our hearts resides the new born King, and not leave him alone so often. May grace and gratitude be felt and as each of us lights even one candle, then know the darkness will get ever brighter. As our Collect for Advent 1 begins: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light now in the time of this mortal life. Amen

Canon Greg



Canon Greg wishing us a happy new year on Advent 1, during his homily of Dec. 1st, 2024.





Christmas Dinner – Dec. 25, 2024

To all those who need food and/or fellowship on Christmas Day, we invite you to attend St. Paul's Christmas dinner. We will be offering a complete turkey and ham dinner with all the fixings, followed by a number of delicious desserts. There will be a buffet line on two floors, to make sure everyone doesn't have to wait too long for food, and so we are spread out a little more during covid season.

The meal is free, but you **MUST PHONE IN BY DECEMBER 21st** (705-324-4666 option #7) **TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT.** Please follow the instructions (name, phone #, and number in your party) as we need to know how many seats to set up and how much food to prepare. **The meal is in-house, no take-outs.**

Each year we invite members of our community to help with this dinner; it takes 20 (+/-) volunteers! If you want a truly rewarding experience, why not be part of the group that helps make this Christmas Day happen for the 120 (+/-) guests that attend. **TO VOLUNTEER please call 705-324-4666 option #6 by DECEMBER 15th.** Follow the instructions, leaving your name and phone number and Paul will call you back by Tuesday Dec. 17th to line things up.

The side door (between Post Office and Church) will open at 4:15 p.m. for a 4:30 p.m. dinner.

If you are interested in attending a short Christmas Day church service before the dinner, there will be an Evening Prayer service in the church at 3:30 p.m. (*enter by Russell St. W. doors for service*).

We truly appreciate this opportunity to feed the body and the soul while remembering the real reason for Christmas: **JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE US ALL, AND TO PROVIDE HOPE, AND THE PATH, TO ETERNAL LIFE!**



Nov. 30/24: Our Christmas Tea & Concert featuring "Infinitely More".



Thanks to Myrna Sloboda for playing carols and festive pieces on the piano for us!



WARDEN'S WALK by Betty Hooper and Paul Carpentier

As we begin a new year in the Christian Church, it is appropriate that we take time to review the past year at St. Paul's. The accomplishments, the unresolved, the opportunities, the challenges ahead, the events, our mission and our parishioners are all topics that warrant highlighting.

Firstly, Betty and I wish to thank **Rev. Bonnie, the Management Team and the Advisory Board** for the many hours spent at meetings to support, advise and give good counsel to us. Likewise, we also wish to thank the **many parishioners** who supported us in so many ways and offered words of appreciation and support.

Special thanks to **Doug Read** for acting as the Management Team secretary, and for applying his gift to reduce a lot of verbiage down to a few succinct sentences that capture the essence of the discussions. Thank you to **Donna Gushue** for the hours spent on creating Terms of Reference for the key positions/committees in our parish and for Chairing the Advisory Board. Donna very methodically moved both of these important tasks forward in some challenging conditions. Our thanks go to both of you.

An EXTRA BIG THANK YOU to Don and Marg Brohm for donating 100's of hours of their time to keep our church and halls spotless for all of 2024! Their love of God, and his house of worship, are reflected in the quality of the work they do. I truly admire their commitment to Christ and their glowing example of: "To God be the Glory". This same commitment shines forth in their work on the rental properties, the chancel guild, the back office and as a lay reader. Thank you for all you do for our parish; we are so blessed to have you both in our midst.

Thank you to Tom Ross for acting as our bookkeeper for the first half of the year, as well as being the treasurer. Again, St. Paul's is so blessed to have a person like Tom in our parish who steps up when challenges arise, never looking for the glory. As you know, Tom retired as treasurer at the end of October but is continuing to monitor/mentor the interim treasurer. We are so grateful for his help in ensuring a smooth turn over.

Thank you to Arlene Gray for joining our staff as both Music Director and Parish Administrator on September 3rd. You have witnessed the "growing choir", use of the pipe organ, anthems every week and the promise of the "Bells" returning. Very positive steps in leading the congregation in the worship part(s) of the service. Likewise, tremendous progress has been made in the office and operations side of our church. Arlene will also be taking over the day-to-day operation of the church's web site in early January, which is a real positive. We are so glad to have Arlene, and her husband Ken, back in our congregation.

We thank **Myrna Sloboda** and **Betty Drummond** for filling in as our musicians from April until September. We thank **Lorna Green and Doug Read** for helping to cover the office during this same period, while we were without staff. Thanks to **Lorna and Mike Green** for the weekly live streaming. Thanks to **Betty Drummond** for her beautiful landscaping. Thanks to **Marlene Wood** and **Marg Brohm** for handling the back office. Thank you to the chancel guild, the choir, the lay readers, the readers and the sides people who help out with the services every week.

We thank **Gail Payne** and the Outreach Committee for all they do to share our faith, in action, within our community and beyond. The work done in "The Pantry", the schools, the prison, the Foster Children and so much MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

(continued on page 9....)



We thank everyone who stepped up to help at our events throughout the year. It is so important we invite people from the community to come into our church. One of the best ways to get a chance to “**feed the soul**” is around a table “**feeding the body**”. **St. Paul’s is a place that is equipped to do both, and to do them well!** Special thanks to **Barb Truax** for once again heading up a very successful Spring Thaw Dinner and Murder Mystery Dinner. You are amazing Barb; thank you for all you do for St. Paul’s (and so many others in this community).

In 2024 the substantial savings on vacant/volunteer staff positions made a huge savings on the budget and will net a positive bottom line. This will be much more challenging in 2025, as all staff positions will be filled. The envelope givings still do not meet our expenses! We are still short even when we add in the fundraising monies! Are you in a position where you might be able to help by increasing your givings?

We thank the Betty Mitchell estate and the Joyce Henderson estate for their generous bequests. These bequests allowed for the repair of a stained-glass window, the church roof, the two hall steps, brick work, and the repair of the plaster cracks/chips throughout the church and hall, **without impacting our budget!** Another example of how God does provide for our needs; to Him be the Glory.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to be your wardens. Thank you for all you do for St. Paul’s and the good work we collectively do in this community. **May you have a Blessed Christmas.**

A Special Update on Karangwa *(by Gail and Peter Payne)*



In 2005 St. Paul's sponsored a young refugee from Rwanda. This man is Theogene Karangwa. He had escaped the genocide in Rwanda and spent 8 years in a refugee camp in Kenya. He charmed all of us in the congregation with his ever present smile and his determination to be a good Canadian.

Peter and I were blessed to have him live with us until he moved on to further his education. Ultimately, he graduated from Brock University as he pursued a career as an accountant. Karangwa currently works as an accountant in Edmonton.

It was here that he met his now wife, Myra Mae, or M as she prefers. We were privileged to attend their wedding in Edmonton on Oct.19. What a joyous celebration! We continue to thank God for the blessing Karangwa was to this parish and pray they may have a long and happy life together.

By Gail and Peter Payne

***Congratulations Karangwa & M from St. Paul’s Church.
We are so proud of your accomplishments, and always
excited to get updates on your life here in Canada!
God bless!***



Mystery Dinner Theatre! (Oct. 26/24)



Ian M. as "Chad Cunningham"



Marlene W. as "Jennifer Hughes"



Don B. as "Dean Hudson"



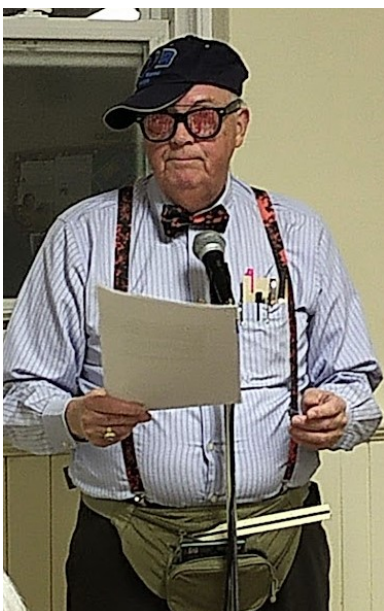
Dawn E. as "Leslie Martin"



Arlene G. as "Lauren St. Clair"



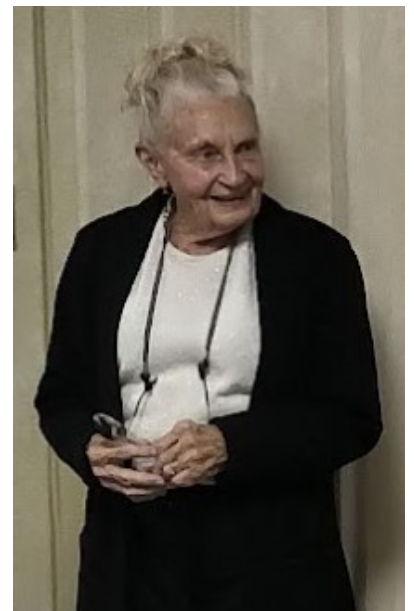
Donna G. as "Cindy Louis"



Doug R. as "Fraser Watson"



Michael G. as "Johnny B"



Barb T. our Emcee & organizer.



Our eight wonderful actors line up after the show as the audience tries to decide who the murderer was....



The murderer was:
"Lauren St. Clair"
played by Arlene.



Thanks to Barb Truax for putting this event together, & to the actors!!!



Quilt draw by family of Muriel Kent.



Thanks to our kitchen staff, bartender, and everyone who helped with our Mystery Dinner Theatre!!





Mystery Theatre and Dinner – October 26 2024

The 'annual' Mystery Theatre and Dinner from many accounts it was another HIT!!!

Our talented actors made it so!!

These eight entertaining 'suspects' were such great sports and provided many laughs throughout the evening.

These 'actor' were Dawn Evans, Arlene Gray, Marlene Walden, Donna Gushue Michael Green, Don Brohm, Ian McKechnie and Doug Read, We discovered that Arlene Gray was the Murderer!!! Egads!!!

Our guests enjoyed a delicious four course meal by our own Paul Carpentier and his staff.

My special thanks are extended to so many people,-

-to the actors who provided great entertainment

-to those who provided donations toward the event

-to all who assisted by setting up tables, dressing tables, stuffing wine glasses, laundering tablecloths

-to those who attend next day to take everything down.

-to Ken Gray who acted as our Bartender and Betty Tyndal, our hostess.

Special mention and our special thanks to all who bought tickets and attended the Dinner. Your support is essential. If it were not for you this evening could not be held.

And a **super special thankyou** to **Barb Truax** our illustrious organizer extraordinaire.

QUILT DRAW – The ticket for this lovely quilt made by Muriel Kent was drawn by Muriel's two daughters. The winner was a friend of Muriel's daughter. Congratulations

Most appreciatively, Barb Truax

Christmas Flowers: If you wish to donate flowers in memory of a loved one for Christmas, please let us know by Dec. 17. Mark your donation envelope: Donation Christmas Flowers

Annual Christmas Dinner—more ways to help out!

The Phone system is up and running for you to make your **Christmas Dinner Reservations** and Volunteer to help. Please let your friends and neighbours know.

The Offer of a Lifetime for those of us over 50: We are looking for china **teacups** to have on hand for our annual event. *Might you have some you want to go to a good home?*



Our St. Paul's Family:

FROM OUR PARISH REGISTERS:

*No new entries since our last Grapevine.
(baptisms/marriages/funerals)*

CELEBRATING.....

(January—March 2025.)



Jeanette Bowrin

Ken Gray

Ian McKechnie

Jim Buchanan

Marg Brohm

Betty Drummond

Ross Graham

Happy Anniversary

Rev. Bonnie & Michael Skerritt



St. Paul's Church Services are listed on the last page of this Grapevine.

Due to our wide circulation on the internet and to the new Privacy Act regulations, no personal phone numbers are listed on the first or last page of all issues.

A special “WELCOME” to newcomers, and visitors to St. Paul's. We are glad to have you worshipping with us!

Note: We strive not to miss anyone. If you know of someone celebrating a special day, please let us know. Contact Diane S. “THE GRAPEVINE” editor. The celebrations in this issue are from Jan through Mar. 2025.

Church Office Hours:

Tuesdays—Thursdays

9am—12 noon



Arlene Gray: Office Admin. Assistant

Trip down Memory Lane....

Arlene found a photo from the Choir taken a number of years ago. Recognize anyone?



What's Going On In The Archives? By Ian McKechnie

When the late Ross Smyth invited me to take on the responsibility of overseeing St. Paul's archives in 2019, I really had no idea just what I was getting into. I had of course been granted a glimpse of the archive room and knew that the collection was fairly large – and I was only too aware that the task before me was, for lack of a better adjective, formidable.

Fast forward to the end of 2021, when I invited Ms. Angela Fornelli, Manager of Corporate Records & Archival Services for the City of Kawartha Lakes, to pay the archives a visit and offer some professional guidance on how to best manage and rationalize the collection. Conversations with Angela, along with our own Barb Truax and Lorna Green, led us to make an application to Library and Archives Canada's Documentary Heritage Communities Program (DHCP) grant in 2023, which we were unsuccessful in securing. In the meantime, the St. Paul's Archives Committee – myself, Barb, and Lorna – worked with Angela and a couple of summer interns from the municipality's records centre to get at least a head start on rehousing the records and other archival material at St. Paul's.

We then went back to the drawing board in the late autumn of 2023, made some tweaks to our previous application, and reapplied to the DHCP. This time, we were given the green light by Library and Archives Canada, which announced on March 28, 2024, that it would be contributing \$20,634 towards our project – a project that would see us describe, rehouse, and ultimately increase access to St. Paul's vast collection of archival holdings.

After some preliminary steps in mid-April (i.e. procuring a computer, preparing a list of required supplies), I dived into the task of being the parish's first paid archivist. I began where Angela's interns had left off the previous summer – by continuing the process of rehousing records that had previously been kept largely in cardboard boxes. Thus, an ancient-looking parish scrapbook, a vast collection of newsletters and leaflets, and numerous papers and ledgers from the Women's Auxiliary, the Parish Workers, and other organizations all went into brand-new acid-free folders, which in turn were placed in special acid-free Neutracor-branded boxes. I then set about adding accession numbers to these records in preparation for eventual cataloguing. An example might look something like this:

2024.001.012 → **2024** (the year in which the records were formally accessioned), **001** (the accession number itself – a single accession can cover dozens of boxes!), and **012** (the 12th item included within that particular accession). Where there are multiple items included within something else (e.g. loose inserts in a service leaflet, loose papers within a ledger book), the number may look like this: 2024.001.012a – with the individual items therein being labelled 2024.001.012b1, b2, b3, etc.

It is of course very easy to become overwhelmed by the sheer volume of records and to get bogged down in the minutiae of it all. In the interests of time, much of this cataloguing work will be deferred to 2025. By the middle of July, my focus had shifted from cataloguing to imposing order and rehousing. A brief word about each of these activities and why they are important:

Imposing order. Nestled among the notes Ross left me was a detailed list of what was included in the St. Paul's archival collection. This list was very helpful – though in some ways it was more like a guidebook that listed various destinations and attractions rather than a road map offering directions to those destinations.

(continued on page 15....)



Nor did it offer answers to some important questions: who donated specific records, and when did they arrive in the archives? Occasionally some clues surfaced: a name scrawled across an envelope, a date on a post-it-note. Where the provenance (origin) is obvious, the records have been kept together. By and large, though, order was hit-and-miss: for example, some records dating to the 1910s were found nestled among papers dating from decades after the fact – for no apparent reason, suggesting that the former might have been separated from records of a similar age and origin at some point along the line. Other folders were simply labelled “Archives” – offering no further information. Discretion and careful cross-referencing are key to imposing order.

Rehousing. If imposing order involves making sense out of a large collection scattered among binders, boxes, folders and filing cabinets, then rehousing is about ensuring that the records are moved from these disparate containers into specially-designed archival storage boxes – while mitigating damage in the process. After some delays, a large pallet of archival supplies from the Carr McLean archival supply firm finally arrived at St. Paul’s on July 17, with rehousing beginning in earnest shortly thereafter.

A glance at the collections storage cupboard in the archive room will reveal row upon row of CARMAC document storage boxes. In these are the records, all sorted into brand-new acid-free folders according to type (or series): correspondence, financial records, minutes and reports, and parish histories, to name a few categories outlined in the Diocese of Toronto’s retention guidelines. (Records that have not necessarily fit into these categories have been grouped under the heading “assorted papers” – and these have covered a large variety of files reflecting particular activities and subjects.)

The process of rehousing has involved setting aside a considerable number of duplicate copies that were otherwise taking up space; segregating any records that require special conservation treatment (e.g. removing mould or more intricate repairs); and removing rubber bands and an enormous quantity of metal objects that could cause damage. In case you were wondering, this has included about 40 brass fasteners of various sizes, more than 150 paperclips, and about 1,650+ staples! In their place are colourful plastic archival clips that will cause no tears and leave no stains on the records.

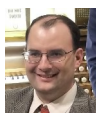
As this issue of *The Grapevine* goes to press, approximately 5 linear metres (about 17 feet) of records have been rehoused.

It has taken a great deal of work, but I am happy to report that we can now find records with considerably more ease than was the case previously. And the rehousing process has ensured that any outstanding issues have been identified and where possible mitigated.

So what’s next? Using a similar document from St. James’ Cathedral as a template, I have been working on developing a comprehensive archives policy for St. Paul’s. I will also be scanning records with the ultimate goal of making them accessible to researchers. The intellectual organization of the collection into fonds, sous-fonds, series, files, and items according to the “rules of archival description” (RAD) is also ongoing. For this we will soon be applying for a second DHCP grant.

In the meantime, if you have any records pertinent to the life and ministry of St. Paul’s that you would like to see added to the collection, please contact me at stpaulsarchivist@gmail.com.

Submitted by Ian McKechnie, St. Paul’s Archivist



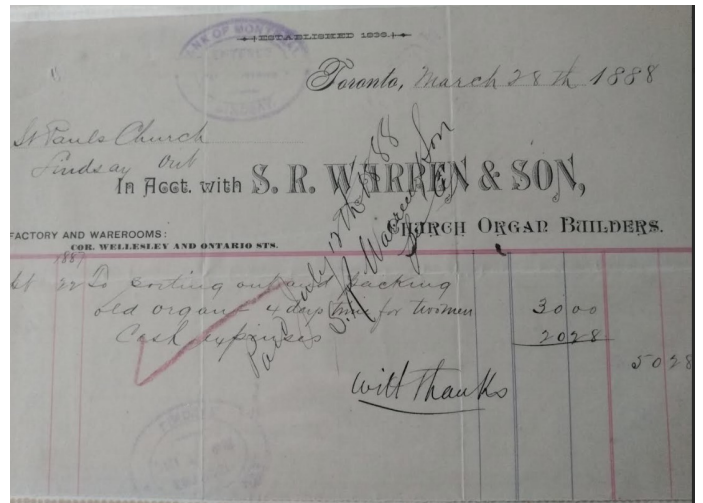
Photos of the Archival Work being done



Our Archivist Ian McKechnie by the storage area.



Storage boxes and equipment



Invoice dated March 23, 1888

Payment for sorting & packing old organ + 4 days time for two men. Cash expenses.

Paid to S.R. Warren & Son, Church Organ Builders. Total paid \$50.28


Above: Sorting out archival items.

Left: Storage bins are getting higher in our Archive Room.




OUR SPONSORS!

REMINDER: We encourage all parishioners to use the quality goods and services of our sponsors and, please let them know that you have learned of them through "THE GRAPEVINE". Their generosity helps to make this publication possible. We wish all of our sponsors the best of the winter season. *Thank you.*



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CHURCH PROPERTY UPDATE



Don Brohm, Church Property Manager, assisted by Ray Marshall and Don Chase

As always let's start with the good news:

- ◆ All rents continue to be up to date and have been increased by 2.5 percent Sept 1/24 in keeping with Prov. Guidelines.

Now the bad news; as always buildings require upkeep and repair:

- ◆ The Church heating system required a pressure relief valve, a pressure reducing valve and backflow prevention.
- ◆ Zone control valves that were leaking in the Church lower hall have been replaced.
- ◆ Flex hose in washroom broke and had to be replaced.
- ◆ Leak under kitchen sinks was found and repaired
- ◆ Church brick work high above West entrance door has been repaired.
- ◆ A/C covers and storm windows have been installed for winter around the Church and outside water turned off.
- ◆ 34 Glenelg required a new ceiling fan and a new pressure switch for the furnace.
- ◆ 32 Glenelg required eave trough repairs and cleaning of eave troughs
- ◆ 38 Glenelg Lower has a new Tenant and the storm window repaired on second floor
- ◆ 36 Glenelg required a new Furnace and kitchen floor. Tile floor was replaced.

Just so you know



Images of brick repairs high above the Russell St. door.





ST. PAUL'S SISTERHOOD



Shirley Hanes, Coordinator

Our group has had a busy Fall as we prepared many items for the Seafarers, two schools and Women's Resources.

Thank you Gail for your part delivering the many toques and scarves to the Seafarers. Many of the people that work on the ships are from warm countries and our efforts are very much appreciated.

We had a very well attended mini Craft Sale November 24th. We were able to give \$420.00 to General funds from sales that day and kept \$200.00 for supplies and a flower fund. Thank you so very much for those who supported us and also many thanks to a couple of special people who knit and contributed special items for our table. We are a small group and we appreciate all extra help.

The next challenge is to deliver boxes of hats and mittens to the schools and also Christmas boxes to Women's Resources. If anyone can help with these deliveries it would be a huge help. As you can imagine, large boxes and walkers and steps are a challenge.

Please note that we now meet at noon for lunch in the library and stay till 2:00 p.m. We welcome anyone, anytime to drop in for tea and fellowship. It's always nice to have The Rev. Bonnie drop around as she is able.



ST. PAUL'S BOOK CLUB



by Lorna Green

Our book club met for Christmas lunch on Tuesday December 10th at Grande Gusto. We all enjoyed the opportunity to meet and celebrate the Christmas season.

In the next few months we will be reading the following books:

January 7 A History of Burning by Janika Oza

This will take place on Tuesday January 7th at the home of Donna Williams. It is an afternoon coffee meeting at 2 pm.

February 4 Mrs. Van Gogh by Caroline Cauchi

This will be held at the home of Barb Truax and will follow our usual pot luck luncheon format.

March 4 The Lost Bookshop by Evie Woods

This meeting takes place at the home of Lorna Green and will be a pot luck luncheon.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best in the new year!

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*



Notes from the Music Corner

CHOIR: Our fabulous St. Paul's Choir is singing up a storm and we are having a great time doing so. We hope that all our voices help you to witness the wonder of this Advent/Christmas season.

HANDBELLS: We are up and ringing and will be performing 2 numbers at the upcoming lessons and carols service. If you wish to learn how to ring handbells, let Ken Gray know.

ORGANIST: Preludes played January through to Lent will be a favourite hymn tune. Do you have one? Let Arlene know and she'll play it for you.

DJEMBE: Do you have one you don't use and would like to donate it to the church? Please let Arlene know.

Arlene Gray BA, ARCT
Sing!..... Just Because!

Remembrance Day

Ceremonies at the local
Cenotaph.

Our Choir participated
again this year!



Handbells are ringing
again at St. Paul's



Getting the bells and equipment set up for our Thursday afternoon practice.



Leader Ken playing the bells.



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Do you have a business that would benefit by becoming a sponsor of our Grapevine newsletter?
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MUSINGS FROM ADVISORY BOARD

Dec. 2, 2024.....Donna Gushue, Chair

Advent starts the New Year for our church so what better time to thank the dedicated members of the Advisory Board who faithfully attend the monthly meetings. And not only that, but are diligent about sending written reports in a timely way so they can be read ahead of or meetings and then get attached to the minutes.

For anyone who has taken a term or two as secretary of the board you know how helpful it is to not have to record what each team leader reports. We can use our meeting time sorting out issues and recommendations to give to our Management Team. We are an Advisory Board not the final decision makers.

By the way, did you know the meetings are usually open if you are curious or interested to see first-hand how we operate on your behalf? We just ask that you notify us ahead of time so we can plan our space and time. Watch for notices in bulletins as dates do change.

The 2025 calendar starts with planning ahead for Vestry February 23 which means our Advisory Board meetings are probably Jan. 15 and Feb. 5 in order to have reports on nominations, budget etc. ready for you to read ahead of Vestry. (if you are new to our church, Vestry is similar to an Annual General Meeting of shareholders). Do plan to attend!

This message comes to you hopefully before Christmas at a time when we light the Advent candles anticipating and then celebrating the birth of Jesus. We pave the way for a New Year of faith and service to others with our fellow members of St. Paul's Lindsay.

Thank-you to all the numerous parishioners who make it possible to hold services, provide pastoral care, and outreach, and fellowship by faithfully "working behind the scenes".

To anyone reading my musings, I ask you to consider finding out more about the volunteer activities available (check the organizational list in the Grapevine.)

Also there are usually opportunities to enjoy being on the Advisory Board to have your voice heard and to use your skills. For me, it has always been another opportunity for fellowship, not to mention learning more about St. Paul's. If you are interested, talk to someone you know and that person can refer you to any of us. Being involved is always rewarding.



"CONNECTIONS" before Blue Christmas Service @ 7pm Join with others for dinner at Symposium Restaurant in Plaza 449 Kent St. Sunday December 22 @ 4:30 or 5pm sign-up sheet on bulletin board in main hall contact person: Donna Gushue



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Parishioners:

Please check all 17 of our sponsors on pages 17, 21 and 23 each time you need to purchase goods, or services in Lindsay!! These businesses generously help with our Grapevine costs.



CHANCEL GUILD REPORT



The Chancel Guild is responsible for preparing the church each week for the Sunday church service, clearing up after the service as well as any special services during the week such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, funerals and weddings. As we have eight volunteers working in teams of two we are on duty for one week a month. Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas we all work together to decorate the church. If this ministry would be one that interests you please speak to Rev. Bonnie or me or one of the members of the guild and we can discuss any questions you might have. New members are always welcome.

If you wish to donate flowers in memory of loved ones please note the flower calendar and envelopes on the bulletin board in the main hall. Fill in the information and place it on the collection plate or speak to a Chancel member and they will take your request.

Thank you to everyone who donated for flowers over the past year.

If you have any questions please call me at (705) 324-0624.

God Bless, *Marg Brohm*

GIFT CARD PROGRAM by *Paul Carpentier*

This fundraiser has contributed significant financial returns over the several years it has been offered at St. Paul's! However, the profit levels over the past 3 years have dropped to a point where the workload, capital investment and risk liabilities are a concern that require action.

The Management Team (in consultation with Linda) have decided that as of mid December we will not be purchasing any more inventory for the gift card program at St. Paul's. We will continue to sell off the existing inventory until it is depleted. We encourage you to get the cards you like, ***sooner than later, while the selection is still there!***

We wish to recognize Linda Todd for all the work she has done in running the gift card program. Linda has spent literally 100's of hours over the years in administering this program! Keeping records of the thousands of gift cards, ***with multiple denominations***, from the time of purchase to having the money in the bank is a monumental task! On behalf of St. Paul's, **Thank You, Linda.**

We also wish to thank all those who assisted with the weekly sales and those of you who supported the program with your purchases over the years.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE by Gail Payne

Your Outreach Committee met on Dec. 1, 2024 as we continue to try to be the voice and hands of our Lord Jesus in our world, on behalf of St. Paul's.

Fall Outreach service: on Nov. 17 Mike Perry spoke to us about his Metis heritage. We learned much about the Metis people.

King Albert School: we have been collecting various clothing items for these students over the fall. With the help of the Tai Chi club, we have delivered 2 large totes of new and gently used items. In the new year we will be collecting needed items for students at Queen Victoria School. We are looking into requests from both schools for help with nutrition programs.

The upcoming quarterly Allotments are as follows:

Outreach

Local: Boys and Girls Club

National: Arctic Diocese

International: War Child

Designated Givings

January: local Alzheimer's Society

February: Habitat for Humanity

March: Food Source

This December our Designated Givings go to the Food Source.

Seafarers: On Nov. 24, 2024 we delivered a large number of toques, scarves and mittens to Rev. Alltree of Mission to Seafarers. These were all lovingly knitted by members of the Sisterhood. These items are for the Christmas boxes for the seafarers, who are largely from tropical countries. Thanks to the Sisterhood for their skills and generosity.

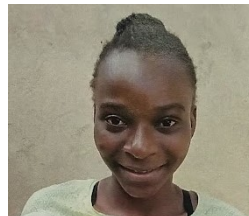
Foster Children: we have recently received updates from our 3 Foster Children in Haiti. They are Schineyda, Joana and Jean. Please keep them and all of our other foster children in your prayers. They are Juan, Kevin and Carlos. Check the Outreach bulletin board for some pictures.

Angel Tree: we will be delivering Christmas gifts for up to 6 area children once we receive their contact information.. The gifts are on behalf of a parent who is currently incarcerated to help keep their bonds strong.

Food Pantry: we continue to try and supplement nutritious food items for those in need in our community. The need is great and our supplies sometimes tenuous. Thanks to our parishioners and the Tai Chi Club for all your donations, especially over the Christmas season.

Thank you all for your continued prayerful and financial support of St. Paul's many Outreach programs.

James 1:22



Photos of some of our Foster Children (see hall bulletin board for full info.)



Synod Series (Part 1)

What is Synod?

A Synod is a gathering of lay and clerical members who constitute the governing body of the Church. This has been the most common way of involving the laity in the governance of the Church. Synod is made up of all the licensed clergy in the Diocese and lay members (non-clergy). At its annual vestry meeting, each parish (or congregation, in the case of a multi-point parish) elects lay members to attend the Diocesan Synod, which usually meets every other year.

What happens at Synod?

At Synod, members determine, at a high level, the priorities for Synod Council and its committees and refocus the mission of the Church throughout the Diocese. Synod gatherings are a time of worship, inspiration and education, and a forum for affirming the direction of our ministry together. To carry on the work of Synod between its sessions, Synod Council meets regularly.

St. Paul's currently sends two laity members to Synod. Synod expenses are covered by St. Paul's for meals and accommodation and usually is held from a Friday morning to Saturday at 2 pm.

Submitted by Barb Truax



CHURCH ENVELOPES



By Marlene Wood, Envelope Secretary

Anyone who wishes to have envelopes, or if you would like to go on PAG please contact the church office at 705-324-4666.

It is a very simple process to sign up for PAG or to change your PAG. Simply phone, email or drop a note into the church office in a sealed envelope with your instructions. If you are new to PAG, please pick up the forms at the back of the church or from the office.

Please advise the church office of any change to your address or telephone number so that our records are correct. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding envelopes, Pre Authorized Givings (PAG), contributions or receipts.

NOTE : ENVELOPE NUMBER CHANGES FOR YEAR 2025.

NUMBER 126 TO 150 — YOU WILL BE ISSUED A NEW NUMBER

A LISTING OF THE CHANGES WILL BE POSTED WITH THE ENVELOPES FOR 2025.

Any unused 2024 Envelopes should be destroyed at the end of 2024. Please call me if you have any questions concerning this change.

Please note that 2025 envelopes are ready to be picked up at the back of the church.

Thank you.

Marg Brohm & Marlene Wood



FAMILY ACTIVITY:

One tasty way to discuss the birth of baby Jesus, is to help your children (grandchildren, or great grandchildren) make these **Baby-In-A-Manger Treats**. Here are the suggested ingredients:

-pretzel sticks, margarine, peanut butter, chow mein noodles, orange circus peanut candies, fruit roll-ups (flavoured cream-cheese spread can be used in place of the peanut butter).

-Once the treats are made, encourage the children to discuss what they know about the birth of baby Jesus. Then, read your favourite bible passages on the birth of Jesus together.

BABY-IN-A-MANGER TREATS

1. Work together with other kids to make the following recipe for "hay."

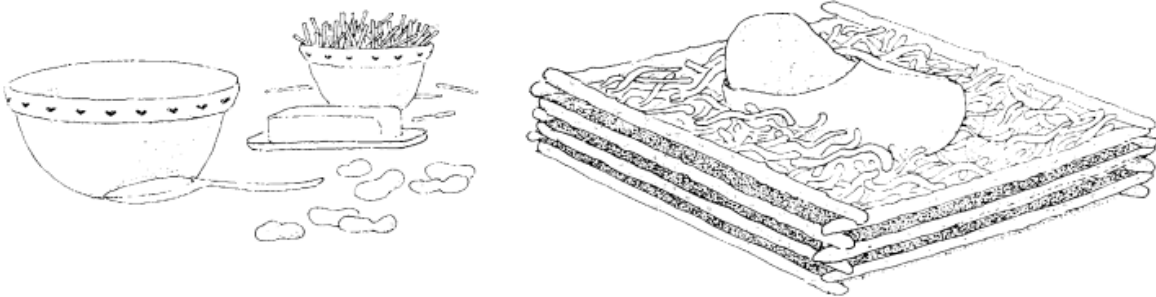
In a mixing bowl, blend:

2 tablespoons melted margarine

¼ cup peanut butter

Stir in 3 cups chow mein noodles.

2. Place a mound of hay on the center of a small paper plate.
3. Take twelve small pretzel sticks. Build them log-cabin style around the mound of hay; then press the hay against the pretzels to help them hold together. Now you have a manger!
4. Tear a piece of fruit leather. Wrap it around a circus peanut candy as you would wrap a blanket around a baby.
5. Place the circus peanut candy in the center of the manger to represent baby Jesus.



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Pre-Authorized Giving

PAG is a form of giving to the Church. A monthly amount is automatically deducted from your bank account or your VISA/credit card to support your church. This program enables you to give your offering intentionally, proportionally and faithfully all year long through an automatic monthly withdrawal. Forms are available online on our church website. Or by contacting the church office by phone 705-324-4666 or by email: office@st-pauls-lindsay.ca the form can be mailed to you. Thank you!

LIST OF DESIGNATED GIVINGS:

You may wish to direct a portion of your givings to a designated fund:

- 1 – Living Waters ***
- 8 – Adoption of Foster Children
- 40 – Kawartha Lakes Food Source
- 44 – Sunday School & Youth Ministries
- 60 – PWRDF
- 67 – Renovations
- 95 – Church roof renovations
- 97 – Christmas Dinner
- 99 – Outreach (Including Local Outreach)
- 100 – Place Called Home
- 101 – Special Sound System
- 101 A – A Special Jacobs Gift
- 138 A – Chancel Guild Flowers
- 146 – Choir gowns, Music
- 150 – Faithworks
- 215 – Special Outreach Projects
- 250 – Special (Rector's discretionary fund)

Designated Giving for December #215 will benefit **Kawartha Food Source**. As Christians have always done, we feed the hungry and we know the need this winter is more urgent than ever. Our monetary donations help the Food Source fund nutritious things like fresh produce, milk and eggs and the cost of breakfast programs in schools.

Christmas Letters are ready for pickup. Due to the postal strike, you can lend a helping hand by taking one to a friend who may not be able to get to the church.



LAY PASTORAL VISITORS TEAMS:



We need more people for this important ministry!

Are you interested in volunteering with our Lay Pastoral Visitors Teams? Or finding out more?

Please speak to Ethel Morris.

Refreshment Time helpers needed – Over the coming weeks we typically have more folks visiting, please consider taking on a Sunday, maybe with a couple of friends to lighten the load. And thank you to the many folks who do regularly support this important ministry!



Dawn E. is turning 80! See celebration details below to attend. (best wishes only) Light lunch & refreshments provided.

A reminder to wear **nametags** to help others know who you are.

We Strive to be a Scent free space

CHEERS TO
80
YEARS

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF
Dawn Evans

Sunday December 22 12-4pm
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The card features a photo of Dawn Evans riding a camel and waving, set against a background of gold confetti.



A FEW COMMUNICATION ITEMS (by D. Stecher, Editor)

The Events Team:

Thanks to Barb T. and her wonderful crew of actors and volunteers for another sensational Mystery Dinner Theatre! Thanks to Ray M. for organizing the Christmas Concert with Infinitely More, to Myrna Sloboda for the festive piano music, and Paul C. and kitchen helpers for the Christmas Tea goodies. Stay tuned for event announcements for 2025.

Archives:

Thanks to Ian M. and his team for continuing to organize our archives! (See pg. 14—16 of this Grapevine)

Church Website:

Best wishes to Mary Sullivan on her retirement from her website design business! For those who might not know: Mary spent over 14 years designing and running St. Paul's Website, Facebook site, uploading videos and live-streams onto St. Paul's YouTube channel, assisting with Grapevine file uploads, reformatting posters and information for our media platforms, trouble-shooting, and doing numerous other behind-the-scenes tasks. Presently, Warren Frank (one of two men who have taken over Mary's business), has been looking after our Website and continuing to update it as needed. Thanks to Warren F. for his work on our behalf! In January, management of our Website will be taken over by Arlene Gray (as per the Wardens).

Church Facebook:

Rev. Bonnie has been managing our Facebook site, and Diane S. has been posting the Sunday service links for our at-home viewers, and some event photos. Make sure you visit if you are active on Facebook!

Live-Streaming:

Sunday services are being live-streamed for our at-home viewers, and those who might want to have another opportunity to hear the sermon, service music etc. again. Thanks to Lorna and Mike for coordinating our A.V. and sound board equipment, and to those volunteers who filled in when needed. Apologies for the occasional technical glitches we've been experiencing lately.

The Grapevine: Sponsors

We currently have 17 local businesses that sponsor our Grapevine. Please consider supporting them, as you shop in the local area. Also, if you know of businesses that could become new sponsors, let us know!

The Grapevine (our quarterly newsletter)

Our Grapevine is a major source of church information produced quarterly, and is available online or by mail. Thanks to local businesses who sponsor the Grapevine, we have been able to produce it in a very self-sustaining manner. Plus, every time you purchase goods or services from one of our sponsors—you are helping the local economy, and also proving to our sponsors that their business cards in the Grapevine work! Since we take the time to pre-sort the Grapevine printed copies, we benefit by a much-reduced postage rate from Canada Post!

****Due to the Postal Strike—this issue will be available electronically to view/download on our website****

The church may print a few paper copies, but please view or download it online from our website for now.

A big “thank you” to our committee members who work hard on your behalf: **Betty Tyndall, Beverly Baxter, Shirley Williams, Linda Todd, Diane Stecher, Lorna Green, and Barb Truax**

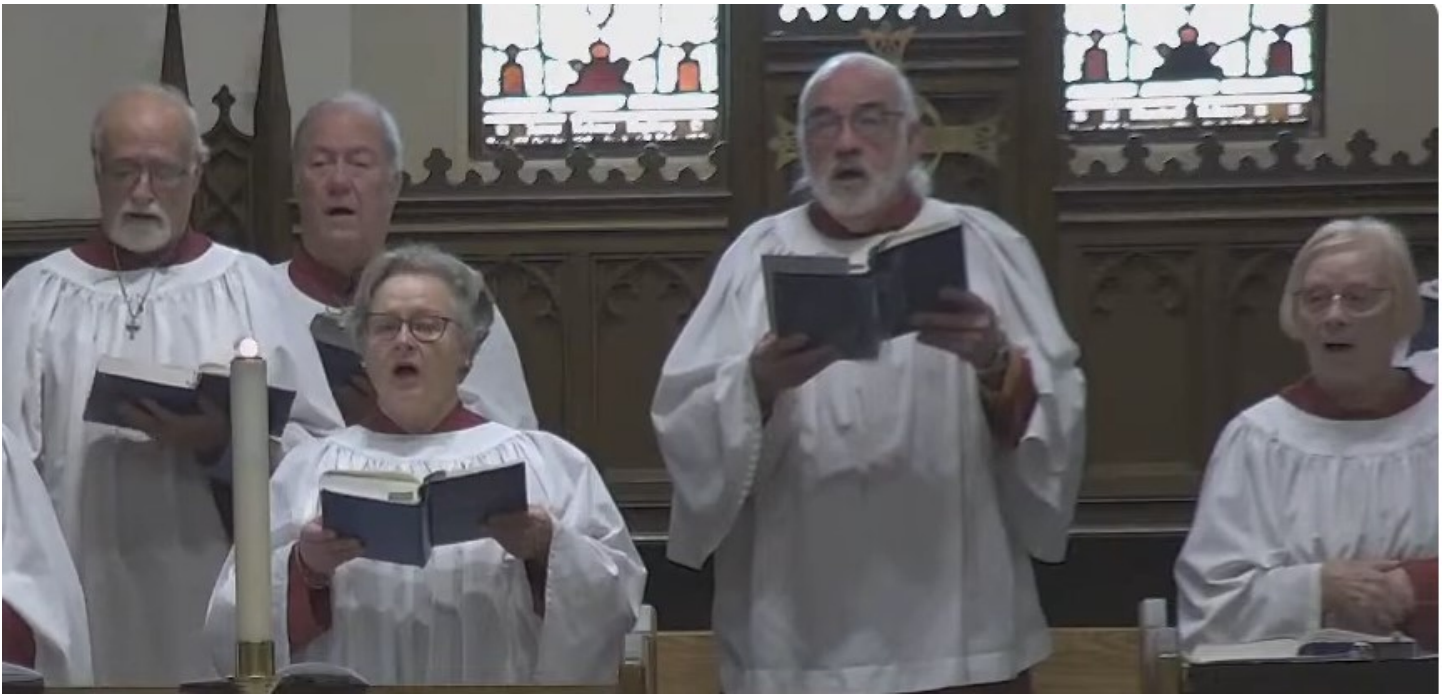
Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Diane Stecher, Grapevine Editor

**DEADLINE FOR LENT/EASTER
ISSUE OF THE GRAPEVINE IS
MONDAY MAR. 3, 2025**

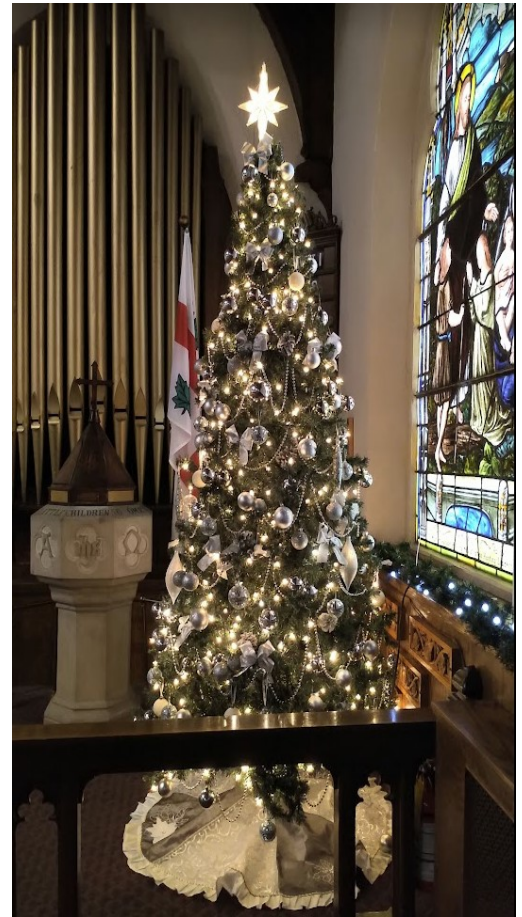
A sincere **thank you** to the groups, and individuals who submitted information, and helped with the production and distribution of this issue of “*The Grapevine*”. Diane Stecher, Editor 😊





Photos of
our Choir!





Beautiful signs of Christmas from around St. Paul's!





ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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The Reverend Bonnie Skerritt

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Mission Statement: **“To know Jesus and make Him known.”**

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Our services on Sundays are at 10:00am.

Please join us in person, or watch our services online.

Sunday Dec. 8—Advent 2 10am Holy Communion

Sunday Dec. 15—Advent 3 10am Holy Communion

Sunday Dec. 22—Advent 4 10am Lessons & Carols

Sunday Dec. 22—Blue Christmas (7pm) Evensong

Tuesday Dec. 24—Christmas Eve (7pm) Candlelight
Service & Holy Communion

Wednesday Dec. 25—Christmas Day (3:30pm) Evening Prayer
followed by the Christmas Day Dinner

Christmas Day Dinner: Dine-in only (book by Dec. 21st)

Please phone (705)324-4666 to pre-book your dinner reservation.

Press #7 to reserve dinner seat(s). (by Dec. 21st)

Press #6 to sign up as a volunteer at the dinner. (by Dec. 15th)

Sunday Dec. 29—Christmas 1 10am Morning Prayer & Carol Sing

Sunday Jan. 5, 2025—Epiphany 10am Holy Communion



**DEADLINE FOR THE
LENT/EASTER ISSUE OF
THE GRAPEVINE IS
MONDAY MARCH 3, 2025**

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