



Christ will come again.

That is the theme of Advent.

In the weeks leading up to

Christmas we recount the way
in which Christ came to earth

two millennia ago, not just to remember that past event but also to prepare ourselves for the coming event of Christ's return.



But there is something weird going on as we look back to the past to prepare ourselves for the future. We have a saying 'those who do not learn from the past are doomed to repeat it.' The underlying assumption is that history is cyclical, the same things come around again and again. Progress means that each time we go around we do it bigger, better, and faster. Picture Ouroboros, the snake eating its own tail – and each time it consumes itself it grows larger and more powerful. This is true of much human history; the same basic motivations and events playing out over and over again with ever increasing intensity. There really is nothing new under the sun.

Then Isaiah started writing about the coming servant of the Lord who would usher in peace to a beleaguered Israel. The words of God revealed to Isaiah were this:

"Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.

See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"



What is the new thing? In short, the new thing was Jesus, and Jesus changed everything. That's why we started marking the years of our common era from the date of his birth. Jesus' coming was the beginning of a new age.



Previously to Jesus, God was perceived as both great and terrible. God did astounding and amazing things for his people, but God was a serious force that could not be directly encountered. No one could see his face and live. While the Israelite people were fully dependant upon God while they lived in the desert, they were afraid to come close to him, choosing instead to send Moses up the mountain to converse with God and act as an intermediary.

But then came Jesus. Not a God of fire, judgement, and unlimited power, but a baby. God came to us in a form that evokes compassion and tenderness rather than fear. Not a God that we run from, but one that we instinctively run to. Never before had people thought that God could be vulnerable, open, and trusting. It doesn't fit with our image of the exalted, all-powerful Yahweh for whom black holes and galaxies are mere playthings. In Jesus, God became approachable and accessible in a way that was unthinkable to the previous generations. At the end of Mary's labouring, for the first time since the beginning, there was a substantively new thing under the sun.

And we recount the story of the coming of Jesus, not so much that we get the individual facts straight, but rather to remember that Jesus' birth ushered in a completely new understanding of who God is, how the world

works, and how we are to conduct ourselves in such a radically new world. Jesus would go on to teach that the first shall be last and the last shall be first; those who mourn are blessed; enemies are to be loved; the least among us are most precious; and that the way to bring down the greatest empire in the world is not through military might but through submission and self-sacrifice.

In short, Jesus inverted the world. Christ's first coming was not merely an incremental improvement on what was before, but a break with the past and an ushering in of a whole new reality. Not a difference of degree, but a difference of kind, and that is the real lesson that we are to learn as we look back on that first coming and try to look ahead to the second coming of our Lord. God's kingdom is not going to be an improvement on the present, it will be a whole new reality.

What that means is that the future is in God's hands, not ours. As human beings we are limited in our ability, our intelligence, our motivations, and our imagination. The kingdom of God is largely inconceivable and incomprehensible to us in much the same way that an executed Messiah was incomprehensible to most of the people in Jesus' time. That's why most didn't believe.

That's also why we should not take it upon ourselves to build God's kingdom. Of course we are to do good; to live compassionately and generously with each other – but we are not the architects of the coming Kingdom. 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no human mind has conceived the things God has prepared for those who love him.' We simply can't even imagine what God's plans are, which is why we are called to be a people that wait. We wait for the advent – the coming – of Christ.

We wait remembering that first coming and how radically it changed the world, and we anticipate how God will once more transform the world in ways that we cannot foresee. We have images given to us of wolves and lambs lying down together, a child reaching into an adder's den with the nonchalance of a toddler reaching into a sock drawer, every tear being wiped from every eye. Obviously these things are beyond our human capacity to implement; we can't accomplish this vision, only God can. So we wait.

We wait in complete dependence upon God. We wait expectantly. But we don't wait idly. We prepare ourselves for the coming day by regularly recognizing our blessings and celebrating the blessings of others. We become familiar with God's language through scripture and prayer. We open our minds through solitude and meditation. We train our hearts as we welcome, feed, encourage, and love everyone we meet.

We do these things so that when that day arrives we will not be caught unaware; we will not be counted among the scoffers or the oblivious who missed the miracle of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection the first time around.

Advent is a time in which we wait upon the Lord, allowing the words of the memorial acclamation to settle into our souls:

Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.



Peace and joy,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mikal Schomburg'.

Rev. Mikal Schomburg

WMS PRESBYTERIAL FALL RALLY



On a rainy October day, a group of women met at Knox Presbyterian Church in Woodstock, Ontario, to celebrate **FALLING BACK IN LOVE WITH JESUS!** We heated up the hall with praise, pause, prayer and time to play. Shirley Miller opened the meeting. Rev. Dr. Dong-Ha Kim warmly welcomed us to Knox and Judy MacIntosh brought greetings from WMS Synodical.



A meaningful Worship service was prepared by Marybel Brenneman. In addition to the custom business meeting led by President Shirley Miller, three members: **Jane Ashenden, Lisa McLaughlin and Anne Matheson** shared personal testimony about how they have connected to this theme. Jane discussed the Front Door Ministry at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Simcoe and how this has enriched her life. Lisa shared the mountain top and valley events in her life and Anne Matheson shared the energy of Embro's VBS program focusing on loving Jesus.

With Becky Stewart on the keyboard guiding us, we sang many old familiar Hymns which we have enjoyed over the years. Small groups formed to discuss the theme and then prepared Fall shapes to be added to a group banner. The four Auxiliaries; **Embro, Paris, Simcoe and Woodstock** all had a banner to take home and share with others. You may have seen ours hanging on the wall in the library this Fall! We had decided on a brown bag lunch to limit the prep and members of our groups acted as guest speakers. It is wonderful to remember that we all have powerful energy and life events to share within our own ranks. Sometimes, keeping it simple, creates a learning opportunity and joyful experience for all.



The day was a wonderful opportunity to do a little introspection and think about a time when each of us wanted to or needed to Fall back in love with Jesus. Oh, what a friend!

Deb Melnyk for WMS Paris Presbyterial

Dance at St. Paul's - Let the Spirit move you!

During the pandemic, we could not gather in person to celebrate World Day of Prayer, so a recording was created that could be viewed at home. It included a liturgical dance that was filmed on the shores of New Brunswick. The flowing movements of Jalianne Li, the dancer, contrasted with the roughness of the rocky landscape. It was so beautiful! It got me thinking ... what was liturgical dance all about?

I don't know much about dance in general, and I am not much of a dancer. Moving with the beat is okay, but getting my arms and legs to do different things at the same time is challenging! I do appreciate the beauty of dance, whether observing children moving joyfully to music or having the privilege of seeing Karen Kain dance on her final tour. I was moved to tears by her grace and artistry but dance in church? Hmmmm I just didn't know what to think! The various churches I have attended rarely incorporated dance in worship, although it was included occasionally at youth events.

I looked for references to dance in the bible and found quite a number of them, such as in 2 Samuel 6:14 - *"And David danced with all his might before the Lord"*.

As I read various descriptions and articles online, I came across this on the study.com website: "Praise dance, dance as worship, Christian dance, prophetic dance, or liturgical dance are words that are mostly used interchangeably by many people in the liturgical dance community. It is used for dance as a means to express worship, thanks, or adoration to God, or for telling a story or bringing a Christian message." That made sense to me - dance as a physical way to give praise, similar to the way that we use our voices to sing praise.

So how did we end up with Christian dance fit/Zumba at St. Paul's?

Toward the end of my career as an educator, I decided to teach kindergarten. Sheila Mary was an educational assistant at our school. One day she asked if she could use the open space in the kindergarten classroom after school to prepare Zumba routines. She invited staff members to join in, and I was surprised and delighted to discover that she used contemporary Christian music. What an enjoyable way to exercise!

This fall, on October 20, Sheila led the Intergen group in a Zumba class. After an hour of exercise, we enjoyed healthy snacks during her presentation about fitness in relation to our bodies as the armour of God [Ephesians 6:10-20]. Sheila also shared the importance of eating healthy foods [Ephesians 5:19-21] and fasting against the negative fruit of the flesh. She concluded with a discussion of feasting on the positive fruit of the Spirit [Ephesians 5:22-23].

Sheila's training as a fitness instructor includes programs from Western University and the VON. She works with all age groups, but has a special interest in fitness for mature adults, and readily adapts her routines to the abilities and challenges of the participants. We are looking forward to having her come back on Friday, December 8 from 5 to 7pm. Please join us! Let the Spirit move you!

Submitted by Rebecca Stewart



Trivia Night:

On Friday November 17th, 2023, St Paul's was pleased to present the first Trivia Night. The event was a collaborative effort hosted by Intergen, Mission Circle and the Mission Committee.

It was a fabulous evening of fun, fellowship and fundraising. Many thanks to all who participated on a team, bought tickets for the Epicure basket, made donations or helped out. Nearly one thousand dollars was raised for the Front Door Ministry.

Stay tuned for an announcement about our next Trivia event in Spring 2024!



“My Journey to the Ironman World Championships: Like No Other”

This past September 10, 2023, my wife Susan, daughter Lynsey and I travelled to Nice, France for the Ironman World Championships. It is not lost on me that I was given a great opportunity; to participate in such an incredible event at such an amazing venue! I never thought I'd be hanging out with the Jet Set on the French Riviera! This was the first time Nice has hosted the World Championships. This race has traditionally been held in Kona, Hawaii since its inception. The course in Nice was advertised as the “World’s Toughest” Ironman.

The day began with a 3.8km swim. The blue Mediterranean Sea is beautiful to swim in, it's not called the Cote d'Azur for no reason; however, starting the race with 2200 other competitors makes it feel as if you're in a giant washing machine.

This was followed by the most difficult 180km cycling course in triathlon history. It took me through the Alpes-Maritimes and consisted of relentless climbs. The first 95km was generally uphill! What goes up, must come down. The descent was technical and fun, with speeds sometimes reaching 70+ km/hr.

The weather was beautiful, although a bit warm for running the 42km marathon. Pacing was based on being careful not to overheat. Just as a car would overheat, a person could very well do the same and be stuck on the side of the road, broken down and “steaming”.

Things went according to plan and the run through the finishing chute, with music blaring and people cheering, was surreal. What did I just do?

Finally, things have sunk in (and I have recovered). I want to thank my St. Paul's family for following and encouraging me as I made my way through this journey. A special thanks goes to my manager (wife) Susan. Without her support, I could not have completed this most amazing feat.

I will be sharing more of my story at an upcoming BlessFest in the new year: “My Journey to the Ironman World Championships: Like No Other”.

Submitted by Gavin Sendrowski



GROUP MINISTRY – A DAY IN THE LIFE

Are you struggling with mobility issues, aging, or difficulties navigating winter weather conditions? Do you feel disconnected from a Christian community? Do you feel alone and isolated amidst your grief and loss? Are you struggling with financial insecurities or emotional distress associated with single parenthood? You are not alone. Many people struggle with a life of *quiet desperation* ...

With the dawning of a new day the sunlight brushes her window. Reaching for her glasses she feels the sting of arthritic pain shooting through her joints. Every day is a struggle and the loneliness cuts to the bone. The sound of her dog's whimper breaks the eerie silence, "Do you have to go pee Mackie?" "Ruff, ruff." They shuffle toward the door to greet another solitary day.

It's been eleven months since he buried the love of his life. Christmas looms around the corner and he wonders how he will endure the holiday season alone. Day rolls into day and heartache permeates every cell of his body. Coffee in hand, he snuggles into his lounge chair to ruminate on holidays past.

"Mom, wake up. Mom, I am going to be late for school. Mom!" Sitting up she wipes the crusted tears from her eyes and dresses in yesterday's clothing. She struggles to cover up her red, swollen eyes and tosses her hair in a clip. "Mom, why are you wearing sunglasses on a cloudy day?" In a state of emotional exhaustion she says, "Go get in the car, I will be there in a minute." Cupping her face in her hands she cries out to God, "God please help me. How will I afford gifts for the kids this year, not to mention a turkey dinner? John is unemployed and hasn't paid child support in months. Please, O God wipe the tears from my eyes and heal my broken heart."

Scripture emphasises the importance of corporate worship [Heb. 10:25] and Elder-led [1 Tim. 1:5] Word and sacrament [Rom. 10:14; 1 Cor. 11:17-34] — an undeniable beauty.

Throughout church history small group fellowship has been an integral part of the Christian experience. Small group ministry offers Christians an opportunity to reflect the biblical pattern of communal life [Rom. 16:5].

There are several core, spiritual benefits to small group ministry. **Discipleship**, in a small group setting, provides opportunities for believers to learn the application of gospel teachings within relational intimacy [Titus 2:1-8]. Within a safe, intimate setting friends can connect and support one another as they wrestle through life's tough questions. Biblical **study** groups create a learning environment conducive to strengthening interpersonal relationships and providing collaborative leaning opportunities that deepen scriptural understanding. Cultivation of an

environment built on openness and trust facilitates **curiosity** and willingness to explore difficult questions.

Within the framework of small groups, we can help close the **shepherding** gap and encourage **accountability** amongst believers — urging one another to strengthen their walk with the Lord [Matt. 18:15-20; Gal. 6:1-2]. Small groups can provide a stepping stone to corporate worship — a place for **evangelism** to those unready to come to church. Small gatherings purposed for sharing food and spiritual conversation set the stage for witnessing **hospitality** blooming from theory to practice.

In a modern-day culture where people are *'orbiting'* the church; small groups present an alternative option to *break into the life of the church* — baby steps strengthen **commitment**. Small group settings facilitate a safe learning environment for believers to **pray** together 'with one accord' [Acts 4:24] and to help each other come to the throne of grace. As communities face increasing levels of isolation and disconnect, small groups provide opportunities to develop a greater sense of Christian **community**.

In Him,
Pastor Wendy

UPCOMING GROUPS / EVENTS:

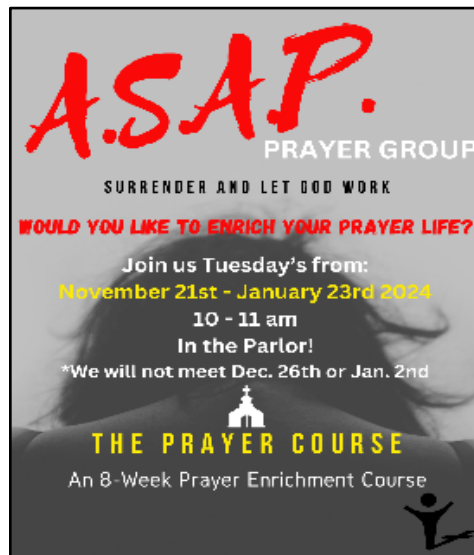
BLESS FEST December's Spotlight: **Prodigy Pianists**
December 4th, 2023 from 7-8 pm



INTERGEN – Zumba Dancercise
December 8th, 2023 from 5-7 pm



A.S.A.P. Prayer Course – 8 Weeks
November 14, 2023 from 10-11 am



ST. PAUL'S YOUTH GROUP
Third Wednesday of the Month from 3:30-5:30 pm



Women's Missionary Society

ST. PAUL'S WMS MISSION CIRCLE GETS BUSY FOR CHRISTMAS



The ladies present at the November meeting of Mission Circle were busy preparing fun snowmen while snacking and listening to Christmas carols. We plan to visit St. Paul's Court on Dec. 4 when we will host a little Carol singalong with refreshments. The snowmen will receive new homes with residents there, as a 'Merry Christmas-thinking of you' gift. Our group has been getting together with these folks for a few years now and it was tough during Covid not to meet in person, but we managed to safely deliver Christmas goodies outside each apartment door at that time. Naturally, we are thrilled to be able to gather again, in song, fellowship and in the name of Christ.

➔ If anyone is interested in attending a meeting or finding out more about the Women's Missionary Society, please see any of these folks: Jane Ashenden, Jean Dimond, Judy MacIntosh, Peggy McArthur, Deb Melnyk, Una Morris, Linda Shaw, Becky Stewart, or Diane Stinson.



Our Mission Statement: *The Women's Missionary Society is a community of Christians whose purpose, in response to the love of God in Jesus Christ, is to encourage one another and all the people of the church to be involved in the local and world mission through prayer, study, service and fellowship.*



You are most welcome to join us on the third Monday of the month in the upstairs library area. We hope to have more folks join us in the New Year!!

Mission Committee - News 'N Views

Christmas is coming up quickly, and the Mission Committee is busy with many ongoing projects.

Our Purdy's Chocolate orders have been submitted. Orders will be available for pickup in the library at church on Sunday December 3rd. Thank you to all that supported this fundraiser for PWS&D.

Our Blanket Silent Auction has started. There are eleven hand-made blankets this year that would make wonderful Christmas presents. They are set up in the library. Please take a look and place a bid. Bidding closes after service on Sunday December 3rd. The proceeds this year are being directed to the Front Door Ministry. Let's help to feed our neighbours.

Mittens for Mission has started! There are two bins for donations - one in the Welcoming Lobby, and one in the library. We are looking for mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and warm socks. There are knitted items for sale in the lobby, so if you would like to support two projects at once, please consider buying some items from there, and then donating them to Mittens for Mission. We hope to fill the entire front of the sanctuary! We will be receiving items until December 10th. This year, they will be distributed to Church Out Serving, Women's Services, and the Pregnancy Centre.

On November 26th, angels for Quetzal Family Homes will be available in the Welcoming Lobby. Each angel will contain the age and gender of a child that is living there. We are asking for present(s) to be purchased for each child. Please return the present(s), unwrapped and with the angel attached, to the church no later than December 10th. They will be taken to Quetzal, where they will be given to the mothers to wrap them up for their children. Please help these mothers provide a wonderful Christmas for their children this year!

On December 3rd and 10th, bins will be available in the Welcoming Lobby for food donations to the Salvation Army Food Drive. There are hundreds of struggling families in Norfolk County that apply for food baskets at Christmas. Sadly, the need grows every year. Some suggested items are: crackers, cereal, soup, pancake mix & syrup, Sidekicks pasta, canned vegetables, condiments such as ketchup, jam, BBQ sauce, and salad dressing. Pasta such as Ravioli, etc. and beef stew are favourites. If you wish to add a special treat, chocolates and candy make excellent Christmas surprises.

I know that we ask a lot of our congregation but, everywhere we turn, there are people in need. Please pray on where you might be able to help. We are so blessed in our lives; be a blessing in someone else's.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas season!

**If you knew who walked beside you on the path that you have chosen,
fear would be impossible**

Leigh Nagy

Convenor - Mission Committee

THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMITTEE OF ALL NOVEMBER 2023

Committees! Committees! When a perplexing circumstance arises and there is no obvious solution, we assign the issue to a committee.

The Session has been looking at the committee structure at St. Paul's over the last several years with a view to improve the working structure within and among the various committees and organizations active in the life of the congregation. Largely absent in this discussion is any reference to the most important committee of all, that is what I would call "The Committee of a Whole", the communicant membership of St. Paul's. Throughout this article I shall refer to this committee as the COMMITTEE. The Presbyterian way is based on democratic principles and committees of a whole are used when operational and policy decisions of serious magnitude are required. We have all heard our local Council move into a Committee of the Whole to address an important issue.

Before going further it is important to understand that this COMMITTEE is not the entire worshipping community we see every Sunday. There are adherents, listed as regular worshippers who have not as yet chosen to seek communicant membership. Among adherents some of the most dedicated and essential congregants can be found. I am aware of Presbyterian congregations where adherents outnumber communicant members. There are also visitors, family, vacationers and others that may be present. All are welcome to find meaning and benefit in the St. Paul's program.

But here in this article I wish to encourage members of the COMMITTEE to personally examine what is involved.

Who is part of this COMMITTEE?

How and when does it meet?

What decisions does it make?

What responsibilities go along with membership?

The COMMITTEE consists of each person who has consciously decided to publicly take the vows to become a communicant member of the St. Paul's congregation with the right to vote on issues brought forth at congregational meetings. There is a formal process that allows memberships to be transferred to other congregations and to receive members from other congregations. The Roll Clerk has the responsibility of keeping the membership current. At St. Paul's this person is Nancy Jonker. The COMMITTEE elects a group, from their midst, called the Session, to attend to the details of decisions taken by the COMMITTEE. *NOTHING HAPPENS AT ST. PAUL'S WITHOUT DECISIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE.* In other words committees and organizations, like Christian Nurture, Mission, Lunch Bunch cited here only as examples, function because the COMMITTEE has established the structure that recognizes and facilitates all activity within St. Paul's. There is an established process that results in the calling of a meeting of the COMMITTEE and such a meeting has to be moderated (conducted) usually by the presiding minister. All members of the COMMITTEE have equal rights and responsibilities to attend, participate in the discussion and vote on decisions.

Here are three examples of occasions where the COMMITTEE has or will be called to make a decision.

The COMMITTEE is called to confirm a Call to a minister to fill a vacant pulpit in a document that is forwarded to Presbytery (Paris in our case) for approval. The COMMITTEE has made a decision which upon completion of the process brought The Rev. Mikal Schomburg to St. Paul's as our minister over seven years ago. Now no one will argue the importance of that decision.

Just this past year the COMMITTEE was called to approve a major program, including a financial plan for funding, to expand St. Paul's into the local community, a direct reference to our adopted mission statement: St. Paul's a witness in Simcoe to the transforming love of Jesus. As examples, in less than a year, we have a thriving youth group, a Two-way prayer group, BlessFest, Grief Share, WASS UP singles, and Inter Gen events to name programs opening St. Paul's to the community. This would not have happened if the COMMITTEE had not made the decision to proceed.

In February of 2024 the COMMITTEE will be called to the Annual Meeting to conduct an audit of all aspects of St. Paul's programs and activities during the year 2023, and to establish a budget plan to cover all activity for the year 2024. In this plan will be the best estimates of the resources required both financial and member time commitments. Again, nothing will happen until the COMMITTEE decides by democratic vote that the plan presented will proceed. Historically attendance at Annual Meetings has been in the 30 to 40 range, hardly 20 per cent of the members of the COMMITTEE. And this is arguably the most important meeting of the church year. Also understood, the decisions made at the Annual Meeting bind ALL members of the COMMITTEE to the responsibility of supporting and implementing them. Annual Meetings are where there is opportunity to examine, exchange views, and make decisions. I hope you decide to attend in February 2024.

Well, you say, that is it. Not quite. Actually, I would suggest it is only one-half of the COMMITTEE'S work. Now, the commitment to the decisions made takes hold. Each member of the COMMITTEE has had equal opportunity to review, debate, and modify the plan that was put forth at all meetings of the COMMITTEE. But when the decision is made the COMMITTEE members have to address what their personal response will be.

Nothing happens unless the COMMITTEE makes decisions. I hope all COMMITTEE members will pray and see where each can contribute.

Finally, in all this COMMITTEE activity, what are we really trying to do? I would suggest the objective is very simple: to seek out God's will and purpose for St. Paul's at this point in our 230-year history. When members of the COMMITTEE attend, and participate in the vote, they, as individuals bring God's will into the collective plan. "God to whom all hearts are open and all thoughts known" already knows how the programs will proceed.

Written and Submitted by Ken Smith

St. Paul's Front Door Ministry

We have had a very busy fall at St. Paul's Front Door! We are now handing out about 20 or more bags of non-perishable food items and ten \$25 Food Basics food cards each week! Your continuing donations of money, food cards and non-perishable food items have helped to keep this ministry running. We are welcoming 15 to 20 neighbourhood friends at our Front Door Ministry coffee time from 8:30 to 9:30 am each Thursday morning. We enjoy coffee, hot chocolate, bananas, yogurt, cheese, and other treats as we talk and offer support. Thursday mornings give us a chance to get to know our friends on the street, to hear their stories, to learn their hopes and needs and to offer friendship, a warm, dry spot to rest for a short time and a drink and some food. Many of them are going through things in their lives that most of us have not had to endure – hunger, homelessness, drug abuse, disabilities that limit their lives, lack of family support and very limited funds for survival.



We have also been extremely thankful to receive money and donated items from groups such as the TOPS group that meets at St. Paul's each week, the Women's Missionary Society of Paris Presbyterial, the St. Paul's Mission Circle Group, the BlessFest group of St. Paul's and recently, through the great fundraising that took place at the Intergen Trivia night! We have also received donations of hats, mitts, and warm socks to help our Front Door friends through the cold times that are now upon us. Donations of tents, blankets and sleeping pads have been a blessing to those who are homeless and seek shelter where they can. Thank you so much!

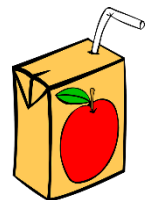
We are planning a Special Christmas Coffee Time on December 14 for our friends and hope to have some nourishing fresh foods to share with them as well as a Christmas treat bag for each visitor.

There is a bin in front of the office for food items if you are able to help, and any donations of money or food cards can be put on the offering plate or dropped off at the office. Include your name and we can add the amount donated to your yearly tax receipt. Please feel free to talk to Jane A. if you want more information.

Non-perishable food items for the Front Door Ministry:

Juice boxes
Pudding cups
Cheese and cracker packs
Cans of tuna or salmon with easy open tops
Snack packs of crackers/cookies/cakes

Granola bars
Fruit/apple sauce cups
Cans of soup or pasta with easy open tops
Cases of bottled water
Boxes of individual oatmeal packs



Submitted by Jane Ashenden

Sharing the Word

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Another new Bible is in the hands of an Indigenous people group in Taiwan. This time it's the Pinuyumayan people, who have their very first New Testament translated into their own mother tongue. This New Testament project took 8 years. On November 26, our missionary, Rev. Dr. Paul McLean and the Pinuyumayan people gathered to praise God for the fruit of their labours. Our Presbyterian Sharing donations and our prayers helped make this possible.

Submitted by Linda Shaw



Rev Peto, Rev. Chang A-syin,
Rev. Chung Shou-hui
(BST-General Secretary),
and our missionary Paul McLean.

IN SYMPATHY – REMEMBERING OUR FAMILY

IN SYMPATHY – BUNDY (FULTON)

The sincere sympathy of the St. Paul's family is extended to Janet, John, Lauren, Matthew & Emma on the passing of Janet's father, Chuck Bundy, on October 2, 2023.



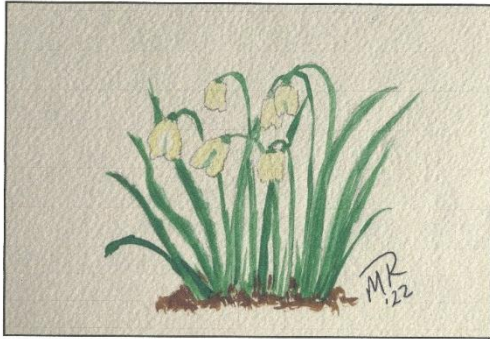
IN SYMPATHY – [MACAULAY](#)

The sincere sympathy of the St. Paul's family is extended to Jean Elliott and family on the passing of Jean's brother, John, on November 8, 2023.

IN SYMPATHY – [ANDERSON](#)

The sincere sympathy of the St. Paul's family is extended to Priscilla and family on the passing of their husband and father, The Rev. Dr. Robert Kneen Anderson, on October 7, 2023.

Donations



November 3, 2023.

Jane,
 Enclosed please find a cheque
 for \$1000 towards the Front Door
 Ministry!
 The Presbyterian members
 are thankful we can participate
 in this ministry.
 We look forward to hearing
 more about your endeavours!
 Sincerely,
 President Shirley ♥

A generous donation
 was received from
 Women's Missionary
 Society of Paris
 Presbyterian for our
 Front Door Ministry.

In addition, bequests were received from the estates of Marg Freeman and Florence Weston.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: COMPARISON OF CURRENT FUND 2022 TO 2023

Current Fund Giving Levels to November 30 – 2022 and 2023					
Yearly \$ Level	Avg. Weekly	# of Families		Total \$ per Group	
		2022	2023	2022	2023
\$1 - \$520	\$0 - \$10	35	34	\$7,498.00	\$6,048.75
\$520 - \$1040	\$10 - \$20	24	24	\$17,659.10	\$16,625.00
\$1040 - \$1560	\$20 - \$30	16	21	\$19,840.63	\$25,322.41
\$1560 - \$2080	\$30 - \$40	8	10	\$13,584.60	\$16,960.00
\$2080 - \$2600	\$40 - \$50	9	9	\$18,975.57	\$19,102.80
\$2600 - \$3120	\$50 - \$60	8	7	\$20,733.00	\$18,219.00
\$3120 - \$3640	\$60 - \$70	1	2	\$3,000.00	\$6,403.00
\$3640 - \$4160	\$70 - \$80	1	1	\$3,400.00	\$3,475.00
over \$4160	Over \$80	11	10	\$61,009.90	\$54,214.18
TOTALS		113	118	\$165,701.30	\$166,370.14

The Finance and Stewardship Committee prayerfully appeals to the Congregation to end this year with a healthy positive balance. This will not only help meet the ongoing expenses but provide a cushion to meet the new financial challenges in the New Year. The accompanying chart of fund giving levels to date, along with last year's figures, provides a helpful guide.

YOUTH NOTES



Andrew Auld help lead the Simcoe Composite School's Senior Boys' volleyball team to the Athletic Association of Brant Haldimand Norfolk District Nine championship in November.

He played middle blocker on his team, which finished first in the regular season, and then won a very close match in the league finals against Delhi.

Congratulations to Andrew and his teammates on a great season.



Sydney Auld helped her Norwich-Otterville Bantam softball team win the Haldimand Erie Fastball League championship in August. They came from behind to win all 3 games on Sunday, including 2 straight over unbeaten Port Dover in the finals. Congratulations to Sydney, as well as her teammate Ava Kalle.



Congratulations to Luke Jonker for graduating from Grade 12 at SCS. He is currently completing an extra semester, finishing in February 2024 at which time he will then start to figure out his next steps.

