

Because I live,
YE SHALL LIVE ALSO.

JOHN 14:19

News 'N Views Easter 2025

I'd like to tell you about a gentleman that I drop in on and chat with every now and again. His name is Jack. Jack is a lovely guy, he's always friendly, good natured, and likes to talk. He enjoys the company. But Jack has a challenge – his memory has failed him. And I don't mean that he forgets names, dates and things like that. Jack doesn't know who he is. He doesn't know where he's lived or the things that he's done with his life. He can't remember the people of his life – he doesn't know if he's married, or how many children he's got. He doesn't know if he's got any grandchildren or great-grandchildren.

Amazingly, Jack is not anxious or worried or fearful as I imagine I would be in that situation. He doesn't seem frustrated or upset – he really is the nicest guy – gentle, and welcoming, and patient. Over time, I've learned a few things about Jack, some things from him directly, more of it from other people. I know that his father was a fisherman. I know that Jack served for years in the merchant marines. I know that he has three daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. And I know his late wife's name.

When I do see Jack, I tell him these things about himself. And as I give him some information, he is able to pick up the thread and follow it a little bit and I learn a couple more details about his life, which I can then give back to him the next time I talk with him.

I was thinking about Jack last night and the way that we interact, and I had a bit of an epiphany. My eyes were opened up. Jack has almost no memory, but I do, and I hold his memories for him. I carry little pieces of Jack around with me, and when I see him, I give him those pieces back, to remind him of who he is. I'm like an external hard drive, a memory stick for Jack. Of course, it's not just me. His caregivers, and family serve him in the same way, but much more so than I do. But here's the thing I realized – Jack can't hold his own memories anymore, but his memories are held by his community. We all carry pieces of Jack within us, we hold his identity, and every time that we encounter him, we remind him of who he is.

Now Jack is an extreme example in that his memory has deteriorated more than most of ours, but what is true of Jack is true of the rest of us as well. We often forget who we are, and we need our community to remind us.

We see this over and over in the Hebrew Testament. Again and again, the Israelites would forget who they were – they would get lost, they would get off track – and they had to be reminded. God would send prophets and leaders who would gather the people together and remind them of their history; where they came from and who they were. They would tell the whole story again to the congregation, from the beginning to the present, starting with the moment of creation, the fall, the promise to Abraham, the journey to the Promised Land. All of it. The reason was to remind the people that they were made by and chosen by God to be a shining city on a hill, a light for the nations.

The church, instituted and built by Jesus, serves the same purpose. The church is a distributed memory bank. For thousands of years the church has been the keeper and holder of our communal identity. The role of the church is to tell us who we are, by telling us who God is.

In case you have forgotten, let me remind you of your identity. You were created by a loving God. Before you were even born, he knew you intimately, and knew all the days that lay before you. You are unique in all the world, and you have great value because God declares it to be so.

You have lived as a slave to the world, but God has broken those bonds and set you free.

You have spent years wandering with no clear direction, but God has given you purpose and meaning.

God thinks that you are so precious that you are worth dying for.

And God has promised an eternal place for you, a place of deep belonging, where you will love and be loved – a place of community.

This is who you are. Cherished. Created to be a blessing. Made to love and serve and inspire others as you find yourself in Christ and find Christ residing in you.

And as I, as a member of Christ's church, carry those parts of your identity around so that I can remind you of who you are, so too you carry the identity of others, and your role is the same. To remind one another who we are in Christ, to recall that we have a place and a purpose, and to be witnesses in Norfolk to the transformative love of Jesus.

Amen and Alleluia,



Rev. Mikal Schomburg





UPCOMING EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday, April 13 at 10:30 AM

Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 7:00 PM
(Communion Service)

Good Friday, April 18 at 10:30 AM

Easter Sunday, April 20 at 10:30 AM

2025 SUNDAY COMMUNION SERVICES

March 9 (Lent I)

June 8

October 5 - World Communion Sunday

November 30 - First Sunday of Advent



SAVE THE DATE: TRIVIA NIGHT

**MAY 2, 2025
6:30 TO 8:30 PM**

SPRING FLING 2025 AUCTION UPDATE

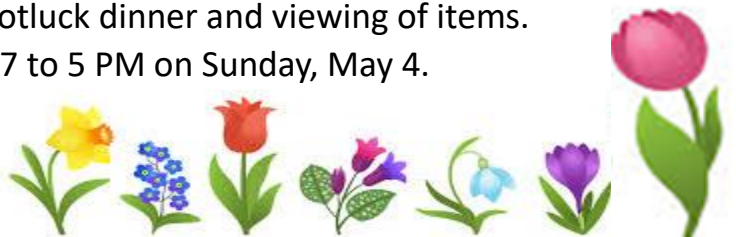


The Auction booklets are now available along with your Easter News 'N Views and Rev. Mikal's Easter letter. You may receive both items by email. There will be extra printed copies of each item in the Library.



The auction kickoff begins on April 27 with a potluck dinner and viewing of items. Bidding runs between 5 PM on Sunday, April 27 to 5 PM on Sunday, May 4.

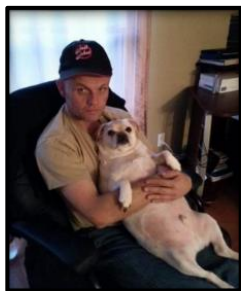
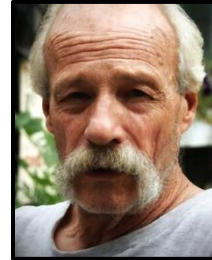
Bid high! Bid often! Have fun!



IN SYMPATHY – REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES

The sincere sympathy of the St. Paul's family is extended to:

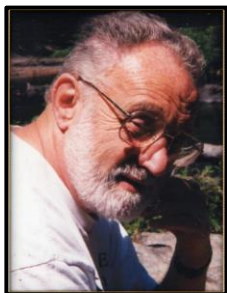
AWDE: Bruce & Janette Awde on the passing of Bruce's brother, Brian, on March 22.



TRAKALO: The family of Mike Trakalo, who passed away February 2.



NOLL: Pastor Wendy, Dale and family on the passing of her father, Ken Leach, on January 11.



MURPHY: Mary and family on the passing of Mary's husband, Denis, on January 6.



PARKER: The family and friends of Wayne Parker, who passed away on January 6.

MISSION COMMITTEE

The sun is shining as I type. Hallelujah! It seems that winter is coming to an end.

In keeping with springtime, our congregation is growing and with it our ability to help those around us. Here are some projects that our committee has ongoing.

Our Lenten coin boxes are out in the Library and scattered throughout the church. We ask that you fill them during the weeks of reflection leading up to Easter. The money collected will be directed to PWS&D. Please bring the boxes back with you on Easter Sunday and place them on the communion table at the front of the sanctuary. Remember to put on your envelope number! Cheques are welcome too! ;)

We will be taking orders for Easter flowers from March 23rd to April 13th. Our lovely flowers are once again provided by King's Flower and Garden. 6" pots of tulips, hyacinths, and lilies are \$15 each. 10" mixed pots (e.g. tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, pansies, and pussy willows) are \$30. As Easter is late this year, individual pots of daffodils will not be available. We request payment when orders are placed. Pick up will be after church on Easter Sunday. This is a fundraiser for PWS&D.

In April, we are having a meat fundraiser through VG Meats. Online orders will start April 6th and close on April 28th. There is a large selection of meats available, as well as gift cards. Just in time for the holiday weekend in May! Orders will be available for pick-up at VG Meats (located at 966 Concession 6 Woodhouse, Simcoe) between May 1st and 7th. More information on how to place your order will follow in the weekly bulletin. If you are not comfortable ordering online, the order can be placed on your behalf. Funds raised go to support PWS&D.

On Sunday May 4th, and again on Sunday May 11th, a collection box will be in the lower lobby to collect items for the Norfolk Pregnancy Centre in Simcoe. This centre supports families throughout all of Norfolk County. They provide food, clothing, supplies, as well as parenting classes, and more. All of these lead to healthy families. Donations of diapers, wipes, formula, toiletry items, etc. will be passed on to families in need. Please consider making a donation, perhaps in honour of your own mother.

As you may have noticed, a large proportion of our projects raise money for Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D). I would like to take a moment to share some examples of

what PWS&D does in Canada, as well as overseas:

- *Food security - people are encouraged and helped to learn how to grow their own crops
- *Livelihoods - people are empowered to become self-sufficient
- *Health - medical care is given, and access is provided to water and sanitation programs
- *Human rights - they promote and protect rights for women, men, children, workers, subsistence farmers, persons with disabilities, and refugees
- *Refugees - they sponsor refugees to Canada and advocate for and support refugees around the world
- *Emergency relief - relief is given due to conflict and natural disasters

The work that PWS&D does is vital, therefore it is important that we offer our full support. Thank you for your part in supporting God's people!

The other organization that you hear about at church is Presbyterians Sharing. This is the national church fund that supports mission and ministry in Canada and around the world. Presbyterians share in a wide range of ministries. Together, we build strong congregations, serve vulnerable people, walk with Indigenous people, seek justice, and share God's love around the world.

"When we put our gifts in God's hands, God does remarkable things!"

My blessings to you and your family this Easter season. He is risen; He is risen, indeed!

Leigh Nagy
Convenor



Recognize anyone in this photo?

Photo taken at Youth Breakfast

November 1992

Rev. John Bannerman



MEDICAL MISSION DEPOT COLLECTION



March 23 - April 20



You may remember our little WMS group called Mission Circle collecting for the Medical Mission Depot in the past. Well, we are at it again! If you are unfamiliar with the Medical Mission Depot, it is a storage area housed within St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Stratford. The Depot is run by a retired nurse, Jean Aitcheson, (photo) and volunteers, whereby medical supplies are collected, sorted and stored. Eventually, items are taken by mission groups heading off to various areas around the world in need of the items. Jean was appointed as a member of the Order of Canada in 2022, for her leadership of global humanitarian medical missions! She humbly claimed that the medal belongs to everyone who has participated in the program – even us!

Medical aids like braces, walkers, crutches, canes and air casts are quite useful. Left over surgical home-care supplies such as various sizes of bandages and gauzes are great items. Even medications past their expiry dates are accepted. Croc shoes are handy for stuffing smaller items into, since they pack well and then can be worn in warm climates. *Everything that is donated to the Mission Depot finds its way to people in desperate need around the world. So, we appreciate your help!*

- Wound care, syringes and needles
- Intravenous medication supplies
- Home dialysis supplies or catheter items
- Diabetic testing items
- Supplements like Ensure or Boost
- Mobility aids: canes, crutches, air casts and splints
- Personal care items: soap, shampoo, toothpaste/brushes, feminine pads, incontinence products for babies/adults
- Medications no longer needed even if expired
(please leave meds in the office)



There will be a bin in the foyer until April 20.

Thank you from your Mission Circle friends.

Submitted by Deb Melnyk

By-Laws No. 385 and No. 74-24 and the FRONT DOOR MINISTRY

What could these by-laws No. 385 and No. 74-24 have to do with the present Front Door Ministry? Well, as it turns out, these by-laws are in fact the planting of the seed for the Front Door Ministry as we see it today.

By-Law 385 was passed about 1970 by the council of the municipality of the Town of Simcoe and signed into law by the Mayor, Alf Judd and Clerk, Ben Gilbertson. The by-law mandated the implementation of the conditions of the W. P. Innes Trust. Wm. Patrick Innes gifted to the Town of Simcoe 87 shares of preferred and 87 shares of common stock all in Canadian Cannery Limited. By-Law 74-24 was enacted in 1973 after receiving residual monies from the estate of Arthur Mather, and communicated to The Reverend Ferguson Barr, minister at St. Paul's. This explains the Innes-Mather designation, that combines the two estate directives to be administered by The Town of Simcoe. Both by-laws identify six churches in Simcoe, including St. Paul's, which would annually share in the earnings from the principal of the two estates, receiving equal amounts in the \$300 to \$400 range. To receive the money mandated in the two by-laws, the receiving churches had to meet certain conditions: stand-alone bank accounts, authorized committee, etc. to ensure the money went for *"the benefit of the poor or needy persons resident in the Town of Simcoe for at least six months and who are either members or adherents or in some way connected with the religious body or denomination issuing the order"* (quoted from the by-law).

Unrelated to the Innes-Mather fund, another fund grew out of a \$5,000 designated gift from the late John Race to be made available to assist anyone experiencing sudden, significant hardship that might arise for a member of St. Paul's. This fund, called the Benevolent Fund, remained untapped for a number of years and the Session entertained the concept of combining the Innes-Mather and Benevolent Funds into one called the Innes-Mather Benevolent Fund. The terms of this fund are documented in the listing of all funds, administered at St. Paul's.

Along the way, the Mission Committee played an administrative role in operational management of the Fund. There were additional gifts added to the Fund balance, small adjustments from the Mission Committee budget, individual donations of supplies and money designated to help those in need who knock on our church door requesting help.

Over the years the response to requests from door traffic evolved based on need and available resources. The need could never be satisfied and resources were spread over the month to be as fair as possible.

For example, at a May meeting in 2017, committee members, Betty Ferguson, Grace McConnell, and Ken Smith, along with Nancy Jonker, organized the response to the expected door traffic in the first couple of days of June. It was well known that the first few days of the month, the bulk

of available help was offered. It was decided to provide 15 bags of grocery snacks. Betty collected bagels and apples, Grace found peanut butter and paper bags and Ken secured cheese from Jensen's. The 15 bags were assembled. Committee members were scheduled for door duty on June 2 and 3 from 9:00 a.m. to noon to meet the traffic and relieve Nancy from having to answer the door. A set numbers of food gift certificates were made available across the month based on available resources. A record of those receiving help was kept in order to discourage duplication and abuse. This is the detail of how the response was carried out each month. The Treasurer at the time, Keith Main, and Minister, Mikal, gave advice as required.

Concurrently, the Blessing Bag mission, a separate program, championed by Linda McDougall, provided products to meet basic hygiene needs.

The Innes-Mather Benevolent program evolved where today we have the Front Door Ministry, organized by Jane Ashenden along with other volunteers. Details of today's program are in the Annual Report for the Year 2024.

St. Paul's, a witness in Norfolk to the transforming love of Jesus, in action. Things happen for a reason. God has a plan. This story is a classic example of St. Paul's demonstrating that God's family is all inclusive and we have interpersonal responsibilities.

Submitted by The Ole Guy

SUNDAY OFFERTORY

Have you noticed we have added a few of St. Paul's talented performers once a month to our Sunday Offertory? If you missed it, we have had Youngmi Kang on piano, the choir singing a round, David Hyuck on trumpet accompanied by Youngmi Kang, as well as Ian Madge and Becky Stewart playing special music at Easter.

Our hope is to continue to offer a variety of talent once a month during the Offertory. We need your help. If you would like to add your talent to one of these times, please let Kim Murray know at: bkmurray@eastlink.ca. Looking forward to hearing from you and adding you to our list. Thanks so much.

Submitted by Kim Murray



IS IT REAL?!

Believe it or not my first encounter with the Christian writings of C.S. Lewis [Narnia man] came in my Grade 13 English class! I'm so old that there was a Grade 13 in Ontario and one could actually ponder matters of faith in a public setting! The assignment was an excerpt from the opening section of Mere Christianity. {If you have never read it or even you have, read it (again). Lewis has some compelling and logical insights to matters of faith, belief and spirituality}.

I had no idea of the content or author as I engaged the first section of his book - Right and Wrong as a clue to the Meaning of the Universe. Though I found the presentation intellectually intriguing [it was my initial encounter with the field of apologetics], my energies were mostly focussed on the assignment and achieving a good mark. It was in university or even later when I finally read the book in its entirety for the first time. And I have followed my own advice above and re-read it.

A Lone Ranger mentality dominates much of our culture's individual centered approach to life and reality, so I found the excerpt below from Mere Christianity timely. Maybe it will resonate enough, to convince you to read the whole small book.

"I remember once when I had been giving a talk to the R.A.F., an old, hard-bitten officer got up and said, 'I've no use for all that stuff. But, mind you, I'm a religious man too. I know there's a God. I've felt Him: out alone in the desert at night: the tremendous mystery. And that's just why I don't believe all your neat little dogmas and formulas about Him. To anyone who's met the real thing they all seem so petty and pedantic and unreal!'

Now in a sense I quite agreed with that man. I think he had probably had a real experience of God in the desert. And when he turned from that experience to the Christian creeds, I think he really was turning from something real to something less real. In the same way, if a man has once looked at the Atlantic from the beach, and then goes and looks at a map of the Atlantic, he also will be turning from something real to something less real: turning from real waves to a bit of coloured paper. But here comes the point. The map is admittedly only coloured paper, but there are two things you have to remember about it. In the first place, it is based on what hundreds and thousands of people have found out by sailing the real Atlantic. In that way it has behind it masses of experience just as real as the one you could have from the beach; only, while yours would be a single glimpse, the map fits all those different experiences together. In the second place, if you want to go anywhere, the map is absolutely necessary. As long as you are content with walks on the beach, your own glimpses are far more fun than looking at a map. But the map is going to be more use than walks on the beach if you want to get to America."

Submitted by Ian Shaw

MADE IN CHINA

PresbyCan Daily Devotional – Monday, February 17, 2025 – by Sharon Cook

The other night, as I was searching on YouTube, I found a documentary entitled, "[Made in China: the Amazing Story of the Bible in China](#)". As I watched, I was startled to hear the narrator state that China prints the majority of Bibles that are published in all countries, even North America! I found that hard to believe, but I discovered on the [Nanjing Amity Printing Company](#) website that it was established in 1988 and is "a major exporter of quality Bibles and presently exports to satisfied customers in over 158 countries and regions. ... By the end of April 2024, more than 260 million Bibles have come off our production lines ... in 229 different languages". Amity produces an average of 70 Bibles per minute and is by far the biggest printer on earth, secular or Christian.

I've always heard that in modern China, religion of any sort is suppressed, yet the Amity website claims they've distributed more than 200 million Bibles in China. This sounds encouraging, until I read:

Chinese Bibles printed by Amity Press ... are ONLY available to registered Christians in Three-Self (government-approved) churches. The 60 million or more house church believers that we [Asia Harvest] serve are strictly forbidden from getting a single crumb of them. ... The Communist party has now slashed the quota they allow Amity to print domestically to about 1/3 of what it was a few years ago, so even the registered churches are facing a huge shortage of God's Word. ([asiaharvest.org](#))

I wondered if the Chinese could access the Bible online and found this:

After banning the online sale of Bibles and Christian materials, the Chinese government has ... tightened the control of religious content online ... meaning that sharing about faith on social media will be declared illegal while the creator or sharer of the post may face punishment. ([opendoorsuk.org](#))

When King Henry VIII created the Church of England in 1534, he declared that Bibles could be printed in English. Then in 1604, King James I approved the development of the King James Version. Since then, many translations and paraphrases have been created and are readily available both in print and online. Many of us have several Bibles in our homes and one or more Bible-reading sites bookmarked on our computers or phones. And, unlike the people in China, we have unlimited access to those Bibles. But how often do we take advantage of that access? How often do we stop to think that, not only in China, but in other countries as well, there are many who could lose their lives if found with a Bible? Do we truly believe, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (*Psalms 119:105 ESV*) and that "Man shall ... live ... by every word that comes from the mouth of God"? (*Matthew 4:4 ESV*)

Remember the children's song? "The B-I-B-L-E, yes that's the book for me. I stand alone on the Word of God, the B-I-B-L-E." Let's make that our pledge.

Prayer: Lord, help us to treasure *and use* Your Word, the Bible. Amen.

Submitted by Keith Main

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER IN SIMCOE

On Monday, March 24, at 1:30 PM, 31 people gathered in St. Paul's sanctuary to celebrate World Day of Prayer 2025. Despite the chilly, windy day outside, inside we were whisked away by video to the stunning Cook Islands, with their lush green hills, azure skies, and sparkling turquoise waters. This year's theme, "I Made You Wonderful," was inspired by Psalm 139, and the video service was lovingly created by the World Day of Prayer committee of the Cook Islands.



Each year, over a million people from 150 countries and with 90 different languages come together in prayer and solidarity for World Day of Prayer. This unique ecumenical movement unites Christians of diverse traditions to address meaningful global issues, particularly those affecting women and children. It is a chance to connect, reflect, and celebrate how faith is expressed around the world. By participating, we gain an enriching perspective on how others live, worship, and face the challenges of life, all while deepening our own faith in the process.

During our service video, we experienced the heartfelt words of Psalm 139 and the poignant stories of three women from the Cook Islands, whose spiritual journeys have shaped and inspired them. We were treated to songs written and performed by Cook Island women, filling the sanctuary with their joyful voices. Together, we prayed, sang, and joined in calming, centering activities that helped us feel connected to one another. We even exchanged blessings with those seated nearby, creating a true sense of community. An offering was collected, and through the generosity of the attendees, we raised \$447 to support projects for women and children throughout the world.



This Simcoe World Day of Prayer event was organized by St. Paul's Mission Circle group, with support from the United Church Women of St. James' United Church. Mission Circle transformed the altar into a visual celebration of the Cook Islands, adorning it with tropical fruits, woven items, shells, and vibrant azalea plants. The library offered a delightful tropical spread with colorful floral arrangements, lime cookies (made from a Cook Islands recipe), mango juice, coconut macaroons, and, of course, tea and coffee. It was the perfect setting to enjoy treats and mingle with fellow attendees after the service.

The motto of the World Day of Prayer movement, "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," perfectly reflects its spirit. This global event reminds us that prayer and action go hand-in-hand and hold the power to make a real difference. By participating, we take steps toward greater understanding, compassion, and peace. If you're curious to learn more about World Day of Prayer, visit their website at: wdpcanada.ca or reach out to Jane Ashenden or Peggy McArthur.



Submitted by Jane Ashenden

GOOD NEWS!

News 'N Views is more than an interesting, quarterly, publication, important as that is. It is also a written record which documents a point in time that is historically preserved.

This article shows attendance at St. Paul's, both in-person and virtual. 2023 compared to 2024. The line graphs were developed by my granddaughter, Kate, who has a degree from McMaster in mathematics, and I thank her for her shared generosity.

FIGURE ONE

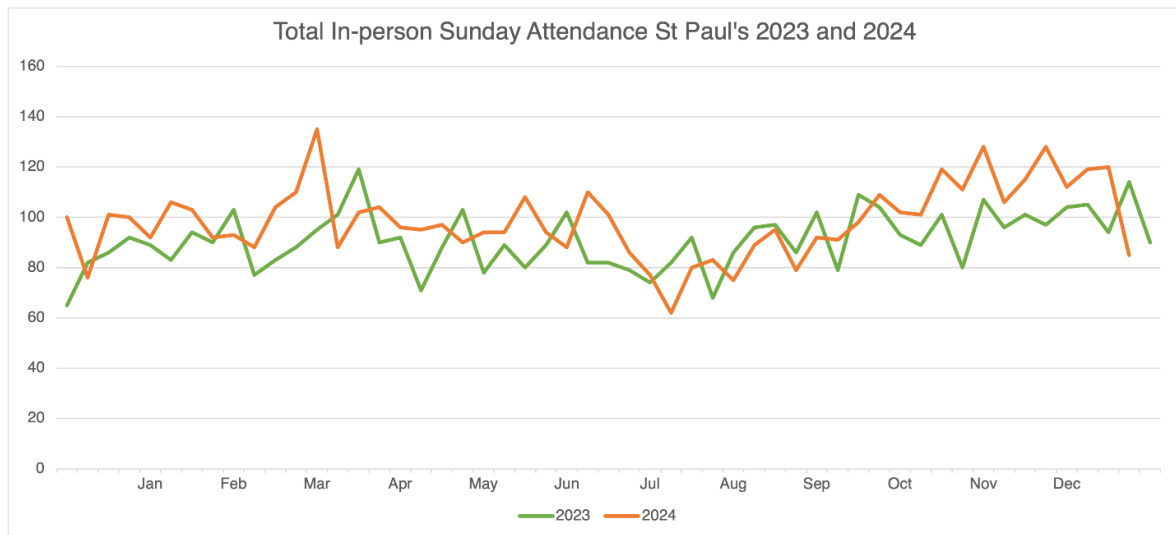


Figure One (above) compares total in-person Sunday attendance 2023 compared to 2024. What is the story here? Generally, over the year 2024 showed an increase over 2023 in the first quarter, with both years holding steady across the summer months. It is in the September to December period where attendance in 2024 shows a steady increase Sunday to Sunday. In November, for example, attendance in 2023 was in the 100 range while it increased in 2024 to the 120 range.

FIGURE TWO

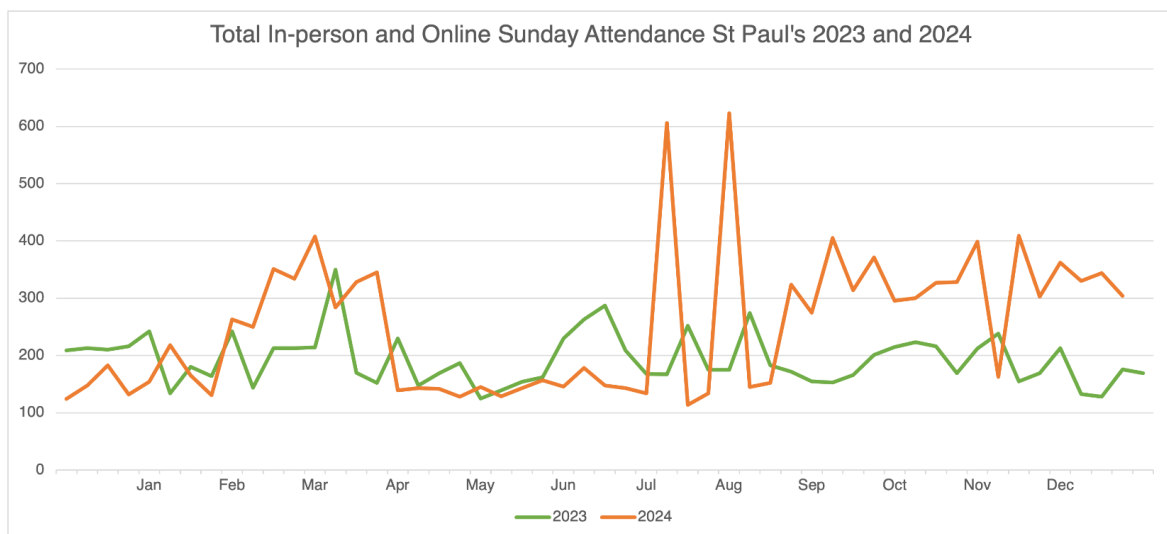


Figure Two (previous page) shows in-person attendance added with the on-line congregation. Unfortunately, the data is compromised somewhat as the internet was not always working properly. Nevertheless, some observations can be made. Once again, in the first quarter, 2024 showed attendance higher than in 2023. In the summer months the internet was not working properly but was corrected for the final quarter. In 2024, total attendance was consistently higher, into the 400 range per Sunday.

There are many reasons combining to explain this attendance increase, 2024 compared to 2023. The readers can ponder these for themselves.

But something positive is happening at St. Paul's. A growing number of the community find the variety of programs available, personally helpful, featuring Sunday worship services.

Submitted by Ken Smith

"ST. PAUL'S, A WITNESS IN NORFOLK TO THE TRANSFORMING LOVE OF JESUS."

FROM THE PAST

(A glimpse into St. Paul's past)
(from The British Canadian, 26 Jan 1916)

ST. PAUL'S

Rev. W. J. Dey, MA, DD, Pastor

Annual Business Meeting

The Annual Business meeting of St. Paul's, held last Wednesday evening, was vigorous and hearty. Progress had been made in every department during the past year. There was a decided increase in the membership, and the funds both for congregational purposes and for missionary and benevolent work were in advance of any former year, and the well-planned work for 1916 is entered upon with confidence.

The new managers added to the Board were Messrs. Wm Gilbertson and T. E. Langford.

It was noted that about 10 per cent of all the individuals composing the parish had already enlisted as soldiers.

The parlors of the Church are open, YMCA style, for the reception of soldiers and others every night in the week except Saturday.

Monday evening is of a social, or musical, or literary character and Wednesday evening religious. Both men and women are active in making the evenings pleasant and profitable, and "the boys" have their full share in the programs.

Shared by Bill Terry

HERE & THERE

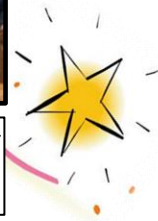


William H. on piano at Christmas Family Breakfast

Rita Pun graduated from Fanshawe with a diploma as a Social Service Worker on December 12, 2024.



Youngmi K. on piano and David H. on trumpet during a recent worship service.



This hit home for me!

When a flashlight grows dim or quits working, you don't throw it away, you change the batteries.

When a person messes up and finds themselves in a dark place, do you cast them aside? Of course not, you help them change their batteries! Some need AA.. Attention and Affection; Some need AAA... Attention, Affection and Acceptance; Some need C.. Compassion; Some need D.. Direction. And if they still don't seem to shine.. simply sit with them quietly and share your light.

Shared by Linda Shaw



Enjoying music from our youth after the Christmas Family Breakfast 2024.



The Hallelujah Chorus at St. Paul's on 2024 Christmas Eve (AV booth view)

