

# St. Paul's United Church Newsletter

## November 2023

**Minister: Tanis Podobni (1/2 time)**  
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### **...a brief message from our Chair of Church Council – Diane Janzen**

Greetings! Hope everyone has had a great summer as we head into winter sooner than we anticipated!

On October 1<sup>st</sup> St. Paul's was excited to welcome Tanis Podobni as our new minister as part of a shared ministry with Oak Lake/Griswold.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those that give their time, talents, and monetary donations.

THANK YOU!!

### **...a brief message from our Minister – Pastor Tanis Podobni, Designated Lay Minister**

"As we gather at your table"... this is the first line in a familiar communion hymn that is often sung. The hymn continues and talks about listening to God's word, knowing God's presence and opening our hearts to let them be stirred.

The words of this hymn are playing in my mind as I think about my short time as your minister at St. Paul's. Gathered at the St. Paul's table, I am blessed to join the new collaborative ministry with neighbouring Griswold and Oak Lake churches. Although we are travelling together on a new journey, I'm sure it will be challenging but exciting.

When we gather and listen to God's word. even when technology hands us challenges, our hearts and minds are open to the challenges we hear. We look for and find God's presence in each other and the ministries of St. Paul's. I am always amazed at the beehive of activity that takes place at St. Paul's, and I commend your committees for the community connections and work that you do.

I look forward to going through Advent together as we begin the journey towards the new Christian Year.

Peace and Blessings

### **Reminder of Weekly Fellowship Times**

Wednesdays at 2:00 pm – Prayer Shawl in the upper hall

Thursdays at 10:00 am – Coffee Mornings in the upper hall

**Please watch for an advertisement advising when we will be holding our Christmas Eve Service in December.**

***PLEASE NOTE:***

*(Baking to be at the church at 9:30 AM. All donations really appreciated.)*

***CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE***

*Friday, December 8*

*2:00 – 3:30 PM*

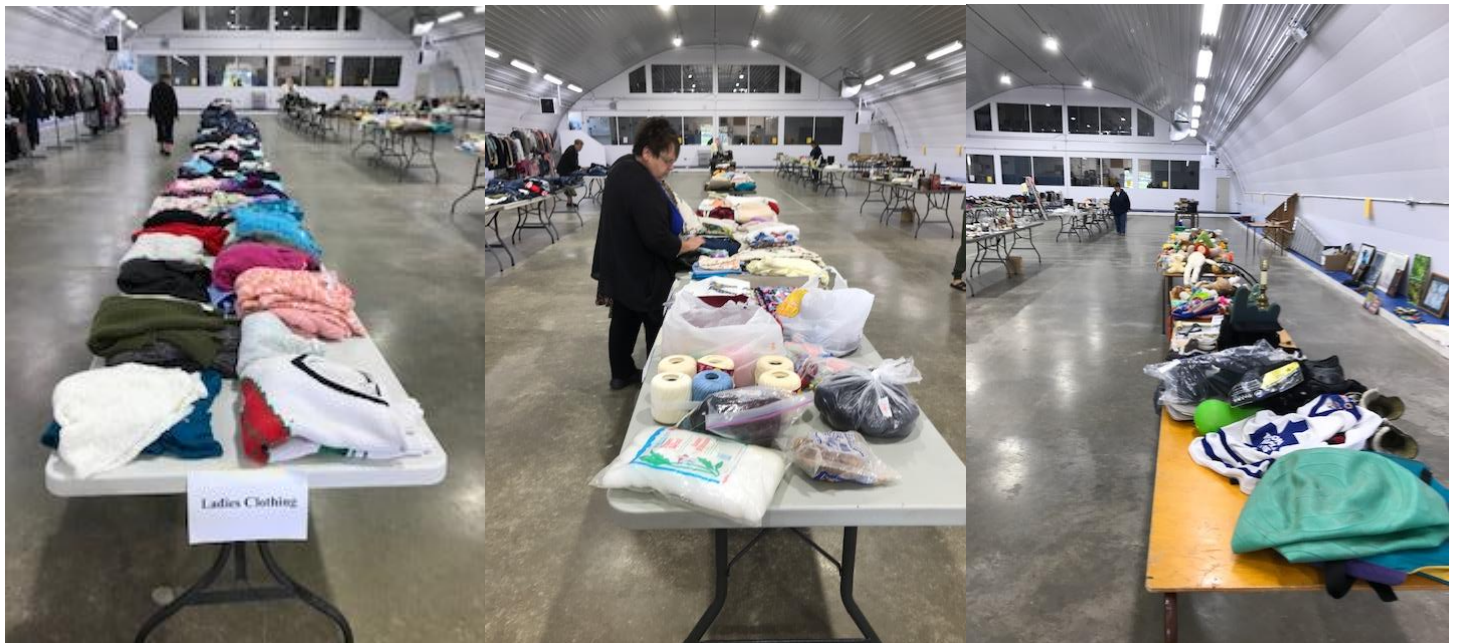
*St. Paul's United Church Lower Halls (Elevator Available)*

*Come and enjoy some Christmas Treats and Refreshments*

*We will provide handi transit if needed*

**Fall Rummage Sale**

We held a fall rummage sale with new people overseeing this huge undertaking. Joan Brown, Cathy Gerrand and Helen McCormick spearheaded this venture and entreated others to help them in seeing this come to fruition. The rummage sale also had a new venue, instead of in our church basement it was held at the Virden Curling Rink which was an amazing spot in which to hold it. There was also a luncheon on one of the days that Barry and Jackie Tough helped organize to make it a success. Many volunteers helped Joan and Helen and it was a most impressive two days. The total profit was \$3,661.75 and \$1,757.36 for the luncheon for a grand total of \$5,419.11. I guess it is true that many hands make light work and I hope that the rummage sale can become an annual event. It is needed both as a fundraiser for the church as well as something for the people in our community.



## Finance Committee

To say that 2023 has passed by in a blur is an understatement. Cannot believe that we are approaching on to the winter season already. Time seems to be going by faster and faster each year.

The Finance Committee of St. Paul's would like to thank all of our members who continue to support the church in any way! We are so lucky at St. Paul's to have so many people who have a connection and do what is needed when needed to be done. Whether it is sit on a committee, organize a fundraiser, plan and lead worship, officiate funerals, play the piano, make casseroles, knit prayer shawls, etc. All of these things are important for the continuation of St. Paul's and are very much appreciated.

We are happily writing this article from a better place than last year. Our financial burden did lessen somewhat, but still is a long way from perfect. The United Church of Canada entered into a Self-Insurance program and for the time being this has lessened our monthly payment considerably. At the start of the year, we were paying \$1,600 a month and since June we have been paying \$824.00 a month. We have been able to cover this payment with the \$1000.00 a month rent from ACC. With funeral lunch profits and other fundraisers, we have managed to put some funds back into our savings. But also remember that we have not been paying a minister's salary and other expenses since June of 2022. But we are happy to say that is changing.

As you all may or may not know St. Paul's has entered into a Collaborative Ministry Agreement with the Oak Lake Pastoral Charge and we have hired Tanis Podobni as our ½ time Minister. We are very excited to work with Tanis.

Once again, we thank you for all of your continuous support and ask that if you are not a continuous giver, that you would consider becoming one by giving a cheque, PAR or E-Transfer. If you are a continuous giver, would you consider increasing your current commitment? All donors will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

We encourage those who may not attend regularly but wish to support St. Paul's to sign up for our PAR program. Pre-Authorized remittance is a way to give to the church other than or besides the collection plate, this way of giving helps the Finance Committee have a clearer picture at budget time, this can be set up through the church office. And for those tech savvy people we are now accepting e-transfers at [vrdsnstp.office@gmail.com](mailto:vrdsnstp.office@gmail.com).

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the church office and LeAnne would be happy to help.

## Gifts with a Vision

Gifts with Vision are an additional way to support the work of The United Church of Canada's Mission and Service partners. Your Gifts for Mission and Service help us build a better world together. See the catalogue at <https://giftswithvision.ca/>

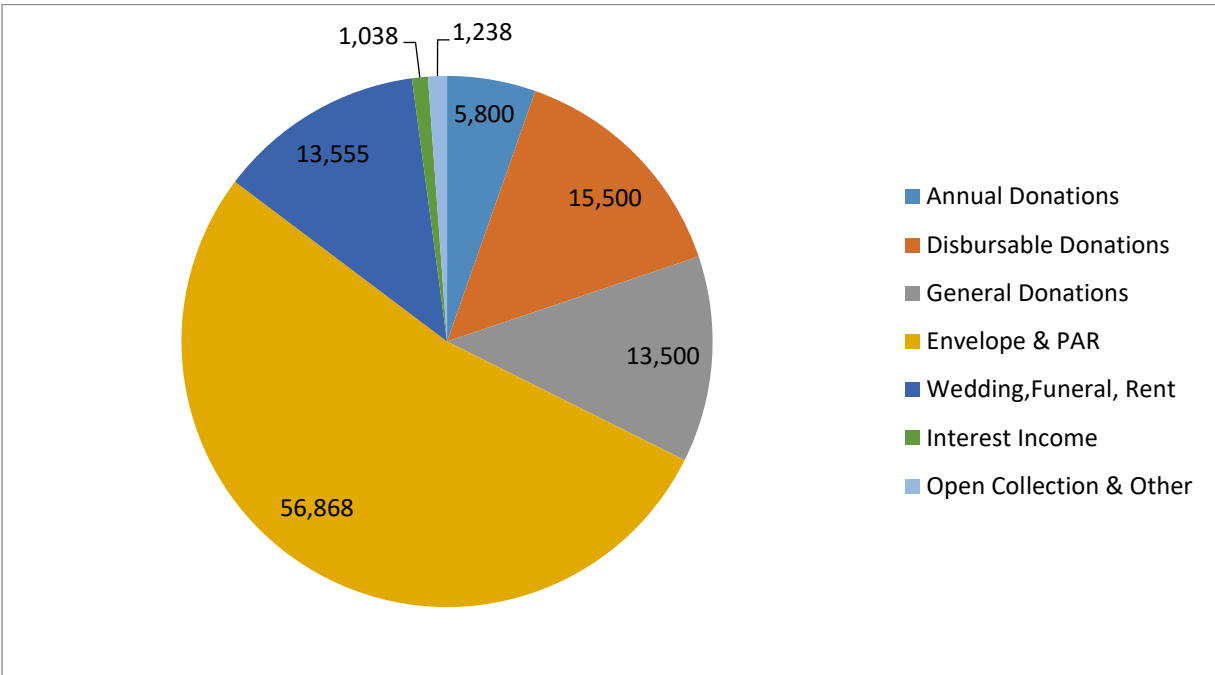
**THANK YOU** to the volunteers that we rely on all year for donations of their time, talents, and treasures in donating to the rummage sales & BBQs, the funeral lunches, the Prayer Shawls and to all those who sit on church council committees. It is all very much appreciated. We could not do what we do without your support – blessings to all of you!



St. Paul's income from weekly donations including PAR and annual donations as of **October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023** is \$107,499.12 and our expenses to date equal \$102,057.98 for the year so far which means a profit of \$5,441.14.

Below are 2 pie charts which reflect our income and expenses as of the end of October, 2023:

### INCOME



### EXPENSES

