



# St. Paul's United Church Newsletter

2024

Minister: Tanis Podobni [vrdnstp.minister@gmail.com](mailto:vrdnstp.minister@gmail.com)

Secretary: LeAnne Langlois [vrdnstp.office@gmail.com](mailto:vrdnstp.office@gmail.com)

Box 547 Virden, MB R0M 2C0 Phone: 204-748-1295

website: <http://stpaulsvirden.wordpress.com>

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## ...a brief message from our Chair of Church Council – Diane Janzen

Greetings. Hope everyone had a great summer. We certainly can't complain about this beautiful fall weather we are having.

Did you know.... on June 10, 2025, the United Church of Canada will celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Wow! What a milestone and a great opportunity to have a celebration.

Thanks to all that give their time, talents and monetary donations. THANK YOU and BLESSINGS!

## ...a brief message from our Minister– Pastor Tanis Podobni

"Behold, behold, I make all things new, beginning with you, ..." These words are part of one of my favorite hymns. I often find myself humming the tune or singing while I am travelling to and from work, and as I sat down to gather my thoughts for my newsletter submission, those words popped into my head again.

How have we been made new in the past year? Sometimes, our day-to-day lives leave us trying to catch up, zipping from one thing to another; time flies by; some days, it has felt like a whirlwind. I was blessed to be welcomed into the family of St. Paul's in October of 2023, and the winds of change haven't stopped blowing yet. We have journeyed together through the season of Advent; we celebrated Christmas Eve by preparing the manger as we joined with family and each other to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Lent greeted us and offered a time of reflection as we walked the path of the resurrection story.

We have worshiped together in person and using Zoom, and we have challenged ourselves by introducing intergenerational Sundays and Messy Church. We have wept together as we surround each other with our support and encouragement during loss, and we have celebrated together, participating in the sacraments of baptism and communion.

For some, the activities of the past year will feel like the year before, and for others, this is all a new experience. Wherever you are on your faith journey, I invite you to open yourself up to being made new. Each day, each new experience is a gift from our creator, God.

Peace and Blessings

## [Ministry & Personnel](#) (Gwenda Hayward (Chairperson), Carol Polk, Donna George, and Lea McPherson)

The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee acts under the guidelines of *The Manual* of The United Church of Canada. The committee functions around three roles, which are the consultative and supportive role, the healthy relationships role, and the supervisory role. We provide resources and support for the staff and the community of faith with respect to any issue affecting staff of our church, including ministry personnel and lay employees.

The committee works to build positive and trusting relationships between staff and members and adherents of the community of faith. If members of the community of faith have praise or concerns about staff, both ministry personnel and lay employees, these can be shared in signed correspondence with the committee. The issues will be considered confidentially by the M&P Committee, who will recommend action. St. Paul's United Church is blessed with staff who are committed to their work and we are thankful for this work in our community of faith.

## Photos from April & September Intergenerational Sunday and Muffin Morning



## Fall Rummage Sale

For the second year in a row the Virden Curling Rink was home to the Fall Rummage Sale on September 6 & 7 with a Friday noon luncheon. Many volunteers during the week leading up to the sale as well as on the sale days made for a profitable venture for the church as well as being a needed outlet for the community at large. The event garnered a little over \$7,000 profit. This is welcome income needed to help with church expenses throughout the year. We were happy to be able to donate the leftover items to Bear Clan and Teen Challenge in Brandon. These organizations also help those in need.



## Outreach Committee



Irma McDougall gave a talk on the Stephen Lewis Foundation at the Valentine Day Tea. All donations went to support our monthly donation to the foundation.



One of the many loads of blankets, socks, clothing, shoes and snack food taken to Brandon Bear Clan.

## Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met throughout 2024 to tackle the ever-exciting world of bills, balance sheets, and Profit & Loss statements. We kicked off the year in January by ratifying payments for 2023, brushing up on the balance sheet, and diving into the 2024 budget with enthusiasm (and probably some caffeine).

April brought a pleasant surprise; we received an insurance rebate of \$1,735 from the 2022 switch over to the Self-Insurance program. We also discussed the need for new windows and a possible boiler replacement.

A connection with the Faithful Footprints Foundation of the United Church of Canada offers a one-time grant, but due to the aging boiler, it was suggested to prioritize boiler replacement, following some advice from the council, we decided that while windows are lovely, keeping warm in winter takes priority. The committee agreed to gather quotes for the boiler and advised the Property Committee to apply for window replacements through the Planned Gift Committee. We have chosen to pause the grant application for now. This allows us time to reassess priorities and address our needs, though it will delay some potential improvements. We can revisit the grant when we are better positioned to proceed.

The September meeting brought another surprise! A letter was received from the Inspection & Technical Services department of the Manitoba Government regarding an elevator inspection that took place on July 23, 2024. LeAnne, the office administrator sent the letter to OTIS Elevators, his report stated hydraulic repair work was needed. Their invoice for work to be done is \$7,241.66 + taxes with 25% downpayment required of \$1,810.42 + taxes. Council approved the work to be done and the fees to be paid.

At our last meeting, we agreed to cover the elevator repair bill using funds from the Rainy-Day Account and we're gearing up for a fundraising campaign to help cover the costs—because who doesn't love a working elevator? We also plan to ask those who benefit from the elevator to pitch in. After all, teamwork makes the dream (and elevator) work!

Thank you to everyone who supports St. Paul's, whether through financial contributions, committee involvement, or volunteering. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. While challenges may arise, we remain confident in our strength as a united community. With your continued support and dedication, we are optimistic about the future of St. Paul's United Church and the positive difference we can make together.

## Elevator Repair Campaign



Recognizing the importance of the elevator to our church, we are launching the **“Rise Together”** campaign to help cover the repair costs of \$7,600.00. Please consider contributing to “Support Our Elevator Repairs.” Together, we can make a lasting impact!

Every contribution, big or small, will make a significant difference, and we deeply appreciate the generosity of our community.

Donations are welcomed through the church office, by mail to Box 547, Virden, MB, or via e-transfer to [vrdsnstp.office@gmail.com](mailto:vrdsnstp.office@gmail.com)

\*All donations are eligible for tax receipts. As of the printing of this newsletter, we are sitting at **\$4,061.11**.

## Coffee Time

Join us at 10:00 am on Thursdays as we gather and spend time in conversation and fellowship.

## Upcoming Events

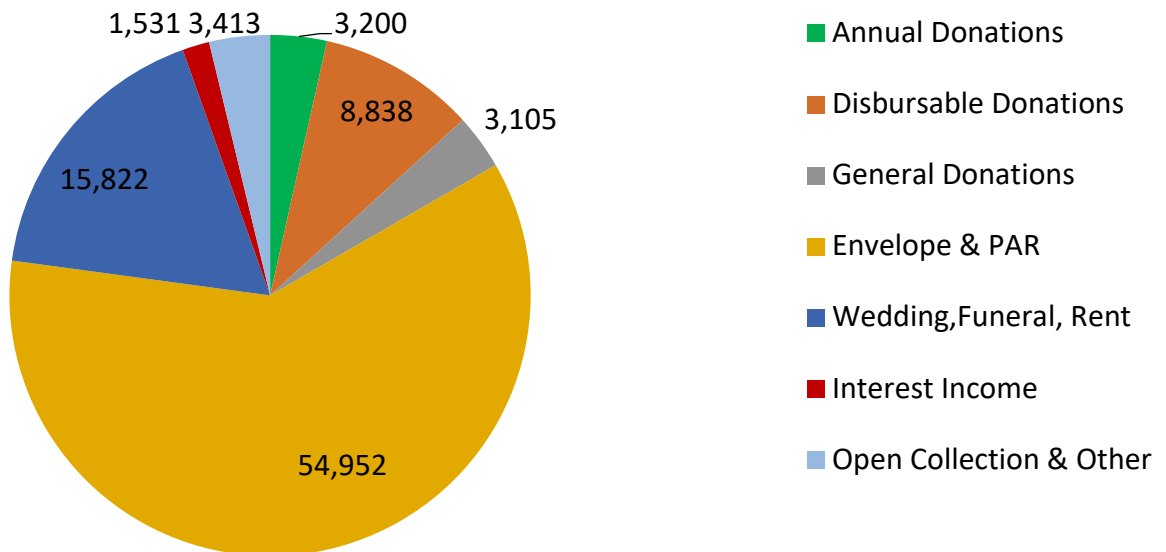
- Friday, December 13** - **Christmas Tea and Bake Sale** - 2:00 – 3:30 pm - St. Paul's Lower Hall  
(Elevator Available)  
(Anyone wishing to donate baking have at the church by 10:00 am that morning)
- Tuesday, December 24** **Christmas Eve Service** - 4:30 pm - All are welcome

## Our Current Financial Picture

St. Paul's income from weekly donations including PAR and annual donations as of **October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**, is \$90,861.61 and our expenses to date equal \$123,215.82 for the year so far which means a deficit of \$32,354.21.

Below are 2 pie charts which reflect our income and expenses as of the end of October 2024:

### INCOME



### EXPENSES

