



St. Paul's United Church Newsletter

2025

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...a brief message from our Chair of Church Council – Gwenda Hayward

It's hard to believe we are coming to the end of another year. St. Paul's has been busy for 2025 with celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. We have reflected on where the church has been, and wonder where it will be in the future. Our congregation continues to work together to spread the work and word of Jesus throughout our community as well as the broader community. Even though some of the projects are hard work, there are lots of laughs and good memories made while completing these tasks.

For anyone looking to be more involved in the church and our community, check out the list of Committee members in the back of the Annual Report and contact a member. Everyone is always welcome.

Special thanks to our employees for keeping St. Paul's running smoothly.

St. Paul's could not run without our volunteers, huge "Thank You" to each and every one of you. Remember: Volunteering is an act of heroism on a grand scale. And it matters profoundly. It does more than help people beat the odds, it changes the odds.

Looking forward to the next year with the St. Paul's family.

...a brief message from our Minister— Pastor Tanis Podobni

'There is room for all' The United Church of Canada has been in a year of celebration, for 100 years (June 10, 2025) folks have been gathering as the United Church of Canada to worship; sharing in celebration and challenges, walking together in times of hardship and sorrow, celebrating the fun times and honoring those who have gone before us. The community of faith of St. Paul's is no different. This year we have had a busy year, and it would appear as I look at my calendar that there is no break in the activities right up till the end of the year.

We have celebrated community and outreach- hosting a Spring BBQ, we have shared in a cup tea and a goodie with the Valentines tea, and how great it was to be together to celebrate around a table of food with the 100th anniversary supper in June- 100 people for 100 years.

The community of faith continues to offer a safe space where folks are encouraged to dig into their own faith story, a place where there is room for questions, a space for play and of course a place to dance with the spirit in music ministry.

How blessed are we to be navigating this time together, and as we sit and reflect on what the next 100 years might look like, let us be open to all things that God has called us to be. Peace and Blessings
Pastor Tanis

CHANGE IN St. PAULS OFFICE HOURS

Please note the office hours are Monday- Thursday, 9:00-12:00, 1:00-3:00

Our New Sunday School Leader – Ella McCormick



Welcome to Ella McCormick!

Ella has taken on the role of Sunday Sunday school leader.

On the first Sunday of the month, following the Time for All Ages portion of Worship the youth head down to the newly decorated space for a time of learning, and fun. Ella brings her energy, her creativity and her willingness to try something new to this role. We are so blessed to be able to offer some programming for the youth that join us on Sundays and we look forward to learning together.

Fall Rummage Sale

The Virden Curling Rink was home to the Fall Rummage Sale on September 5 & 6 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 almost \$7,000 in profit. This is welcome income needed to help with church expenses throughout the year. We were thankful that Boundary Lane Colony offered to take the unsold items that saved us having to do it.



100th Anniversary Supper 100 people for 100 years



Change for Change

The stewardship committee invites you to join the change for change M&S fundraiser. Pocket change will be collected for the month of November and will be tallied and sent to M&S

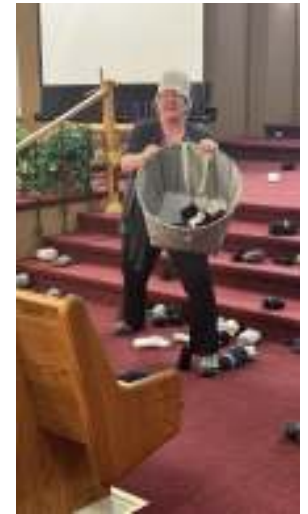


Outreach Committee

Sock it to Me Campaign

Warm, dry, feet are something that we often take for granted. The Outreach committee promoted the 'Sock it to Me' campaign from February 16- March 16, 2025.

New, clean socks were collected for the Brandon Bear Clan and on March 16, 2025, during a dedicated time in the church service we threw socks at Pastor Tanis for her to catch. She came dressed for safety with an ice cream pail for a helmet.



Together with the community's help the Outreach Committee collected over 250 pairs of socks for the homeless.

Stocking Campaign

The Christmas Season is fast approaching and as in past years the Outreach Committee is collecting Christmas stockings and new pajamas for the Westman Women's Shelter.

The campaign will be running from November 15th to December 15th and items can be left in the church Narthex or you can contact Barb Johnston at 204-851-7214 to arrange to have it picked up.

Thank you to everyone who helps make the women and children's Christmas a little more special with your generous gifts.



Breakfast Program

Outreach committee continues to help with the breakfast program at Goulter Elementary School. It's great fun to know that we are a part of nutritious snacks for learning.



Flat Jesus

The adventures of Flat Jesus began in May of 2025. Flat Jesus put on many miles this summer, from Newfoundland to Alaska, Rivers to the Peace Gardens. Flat Jesus was in the garden, at the Gym and even made a stop at 7-11 for a Slurpee. Flat Jesus sat with honor with a bride and groom that got married at St. Paul's this past September and celebrated 100 years with Wallace United Church in July. Take a look and see where Flat Jesus has been!!



Finance Committee

Throughout 2025 the Finance Committee has been hard at work managing the church's finances, reviewing bills, balance sheets, and profit and loss statements to keep everything running smoothly. We celebrated exceeding our Elevator Fundraising goal, updated the photocopier, completed necessary repairs, and reinvested a term deposit to support the church's future. The committee also explored ways to make donation tracking easier and more efficient.

For those wishing to continue donating once a year by cheque, now is the perfect time to do so. If you'd like a simpler way to give, contact the church office to learn how Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) or automatic e-transfers can make your donations easy and consistent.

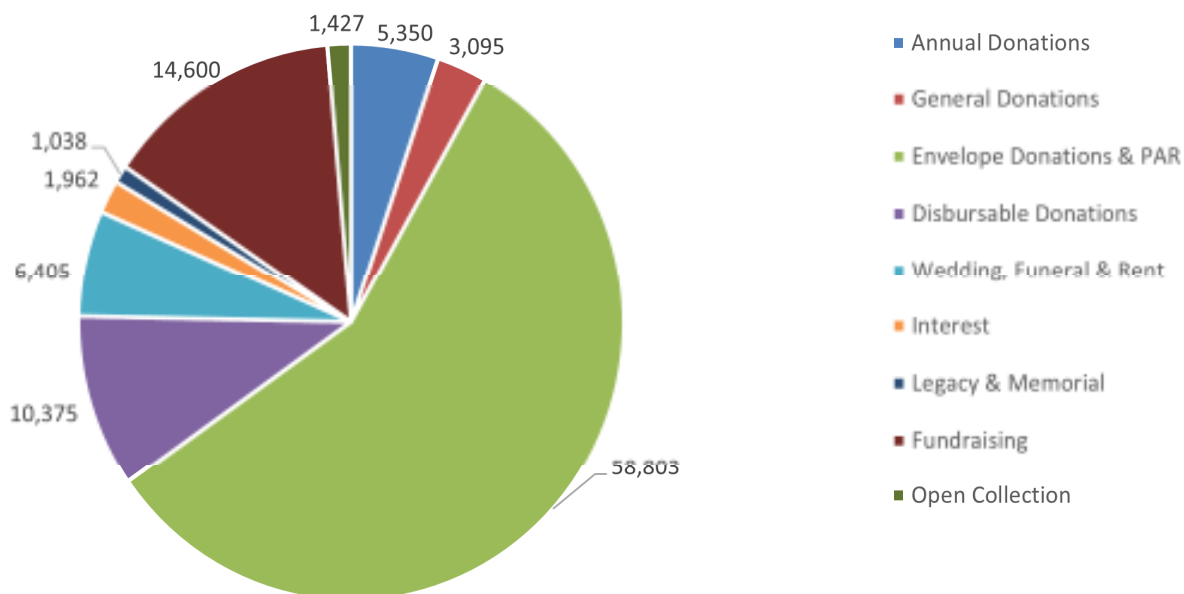
Submitted by Lorne Andrews, Marlene Heaman, Jan Waller and Helen McCormick

Our Current Financial Picture

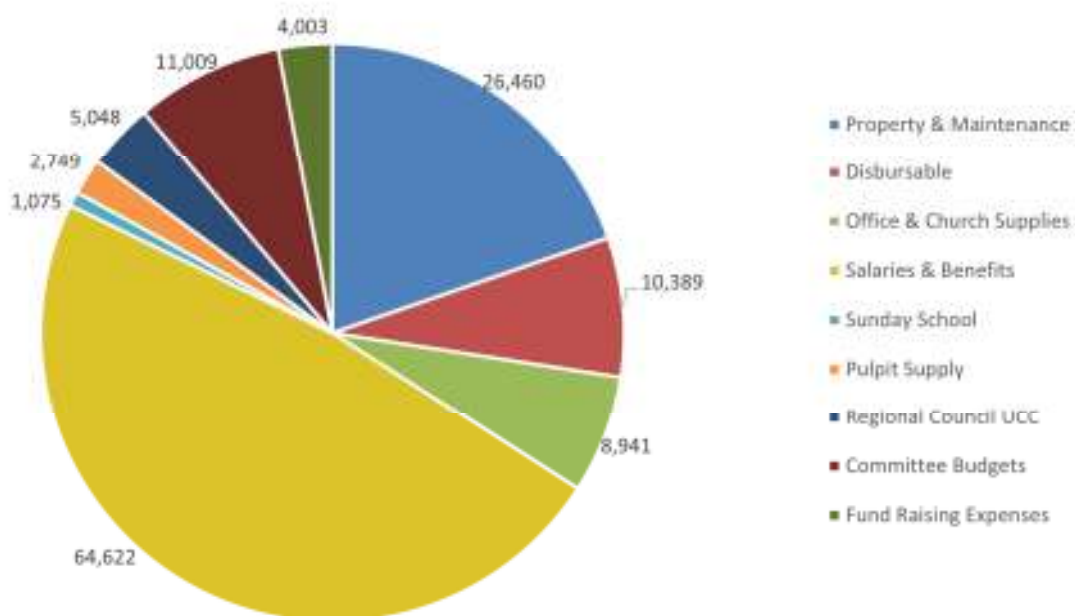
St. Paul's income from weekly donations including PAR and annual donations as of **October 31st, 2025**, is **\$103,054.88** and our total **expenses** to date equal **\$134,294.40** for the year so far which means a deficit of **\$31,239.52**.

Below are 2 pie charts which reflect our income and expenses as of the end of October 2025:

Income



Expenses



Let's Celebrate!!!

The 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada was celebrated at St. Paul's October 26th, 2025, with the ALF youth group using the church over the weekend and then staying for a potluck lunch with cake and ice cream after church. In total there was 49 youth and young leaders, they learned about the history of the United Church of Canada, the relationships the church has had over the years and so much more. The walls were just a moving as they danced the night away on Saturday night. There was so much energy, and we were blessed to have them join us for worship, sharing their musical talents and voices.



Prayer Shawl/Craft Time

Join us at 2:00 pm on Tuesday afternoons in the upper hall. Everyone is welcome!

Coffee Time

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

Upcoming Events

Friday, November 28

Christmas Tea and Bake Sale - 2:00 – 3:30 pm -

St. Paul's Lower Hall

(Anyone wishing to donate baking have at the church by 10:00 am that morning)

Sunday, December 14

Carol Sing Along – 7:00 pm with coffee and treats afterwards

Sunday, December 21

Longest Night Service – 7:00pm

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service - 4:30 pm - All are welcome



Candles lit for the annual All Saints service, lit in remembrance of those who have gone before us.