

**Contact us:**

**St. Paul's Centre/United Church of Canada**

62 Peter Street North

Phone: 705-326-7351



**Rev. Ted Reeve**



**Dan McCoy  
Music Director**



**Katrina Hunt  
Office/Facilities  
Administrator**



**Joseph Cornelisse  
Communications Coordinator**



**Stan Lippert  
Custodian**



**Carolyn Grant  
Night Security**

**ST. PAUL'S  
UNITED  
CHURCH  
ANNUAL  
REPORT 2023**



## Minister's Report for 2023

### A Surprisingly Good Year

Rev. Dr. Ted Reeve

At a recent planning meeting of our Gojijing Friendship Circle, I was mentioning the number of groups now using St. Paul's building, one of the elders, with a big smile on her face, commented: "it is truly becoming a place of gathering." Talk about making me feel good.

For all of 2023, when I've had the opportunity to welcome folks to St. Paul's, I've made the point of accentuating that St. Paul's is a place of gathering in the spirit of the Migiquinee sp fish weirs, a peaceful gathering place for many Indigenous peoples over 5000-plus years. For St. Paul's to be seen as emulating this tradition of a peaceful gathering place is a true honour. We can feel good about our "turning ourselves inside-out for the sake of the community."

2023 has indeed been a good year in many ways. We seem to have shaken off our pandemic uncertainties and are back to sharing our space with an increasing number of groups. Katrina is having a hard time accommodating all the requests. A big one has been the regular attendance of Lakehead students in our banquet hall for a good portion of the week. This will increase in 2024 with even more students having classes here. A concert promoter, Hey Bear Productions, is now having Thursday night concerts throughout the year. This is exciting to have more use of the Great Hall during the week and not just on the weekend. Have a look at the electronic activity board as you come in the Peter St. door, and you'll see what I mean about this being a busy place!



## St Paul's United Church Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2023

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                           |                  |
| Bank Balance                            | \$27,723         |
| Refundable HST                          | \$11,296         |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                     | <b>\$39,019</b>  |
| <b>LIABILITIES, ACCOUNTS AND GRANTS</b> |                  |
| Accounts Payable                        | \$382            |
| Choir                                   | \$2,433          |
| UCW                                     | \$3,982          |
| CEBA Loan (United Church)               | \$40,000         |
| Eco Commoning                           | \$4,393          |
| Right Relations                         | \$128            |
| Broadview                               | \$1,225          |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>                | <b>\$52,543</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>                     | <b>-\$13,524</b> |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>     | <b>\$39,019</b>  |

## Statement of Operations 2023... continued

|                                 |                   |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Expenses</b>                 |                   |                   |
| Personnel                       | 301,374           | 294,987           |
| Facility management             |                   |                   |
| Utilities                       | 29,448            | 36,003            |
| Maintenance                     | 36,725            | 47,679            |
| Rental Expenses                 |                   | 10,447            |
| AV Expenses (net)               | 10,000            | 9,833             |
| Office and administration       | 12,993            | 13,766            |
| Capital Projects                |                   |                   |
| Atrium roof                     | 21,528            | 22,358            |
| Capital Repairs (dishwasher)    | 5,083             | 6,639             |
| Programs                        |                   |                   |
| Worship                         | 3,685             | 3,620             |
| Congregational life             | -                 | 92                |
| Spiritual Growth                | 920               | 694               |
| Eco-justice                     | 1,000             | 1,253             |
| Leadership                      |                   |                   |
| Regional fees                   | 14,247            | 14,347            |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>           | <b>\$437,003</b>  | <b>\$461,718</b>  |
| <b>Ordinary Income/Expenses</b> | <b>(\$28,096)</b> | <b>(\$34,749)</b> |

**Other Revenue to designated accounts**  
**Mission and Service Donations**

\$32,107

updated, February 14, 2024

## Minister's Report 2023... continued

This past year saw a significant shift in our thinking about ourselves. In the first half of the year, we were worried about several things and what they meant for our future. In particular, the retirement of Blair Bailey after 39 years as the cornerstone of St. Paul's music life. How would we ever replace Blair? To our surprise, I think, we recruited Dan McCoy who has brought a different energy to our worship and music life. Along with that, the subgroup that was assessing our music needs, also made recommendations about our overall worship life. Nick Bauman took a lead in seeking to broaden the participation of folks leading in key aspects of worship. This provided a rich tapestry of talented worship leaders throughout the fall. I shifted to a coaching role and joined the roaster with others in leading worship. With Dan's enthusiastic music leadership, and the collective of worship leadership, it has been an interesting experiment in new ways to enrich our worship life.

Also picking up on this energy of a renewed worship life, we embarked on a review of our overall congregational life, called the Next, Next wave. When I arrived here ten years ago (hard to believe it's been 10 years!) you were just finishing an appreciative inquiry process called the Next Wave. It has been an inspiration to much of the developments over the last 10 years. It seemed it was time to review things again with another appreciative inquiry. While we are a smaller group, and facing some financial challenges around the affordability of our big, beautiful, but old church building, the review has been positive with lots of practical suggestions for enhancing the congregation's wellbeing. Stay tuned as we explore them in '24.

In review, 2023 seems better than I remembered it. My mind had first gone to all the challenges we faced. Looking more deeply I was surprised to see how well we came through it. We exhibited a strong perseverance to survive and thrive.

May that be our blessing for 2024.

## Letter to the Congregation from Chair of Leadership Team

Greetings friends,

As I have reflected on 2023, I recognize once again how very full our lives are together. For me, the year required lots of listening and learning as I worked to understand how St Paul's operates beyond the words on the printed page of the organization chart. I am continuously impressed by the number of people who give so generously of their time and talents to make St Paul's 'tick'. It warms my heart to be a part of this committed, caring community of faith.

In approaching our work together as a Leadership Team, we have been intentional about remembering that we are a faith community, rather than a business or service club. We have endeavored to bring St Paul's values of compassion, inclusiveness, trust and eco-justice to all our work together. This can be a challenge as we engage with the work of finding God's call to us amidst a culture that is turning away from traditional religion.

Over 2023, we have focused on 3 major themes – finding a way forward that recognizes both the vitality within our community and the fiscal reality of insufficient finances, links to the broader United Church through the Remit process and communication, communication, communication.

Finding our way forward is not a new initiative. The declining resources (both human and financial) have been recognized as concern for several years. But this year seemed to be when it came into sharp focus as we faced a significant shortfall and a loan to repay. The Leadership Team initiated two responses at once – beginning a new visioning exercise called the Next Next Wave to ensure financial decisions reflect St Paul's current priorities and an examination of 7 financial options identified by the Team over the previous couple of years. The Next Next Wave conversations were well attended with over 60 people participating. The committee has begun to identify themes such as the importance of relationships, valuing welcoming and the power of worship. Our hope is that this work will be complete in March 2024. Further research and discussion reduced the financial options to three which were presented to you last November. This work will also continue into 2024. It will be important to integrate the 'soul work' with the financial work to ensure any action we take reflects who we are called to be in the years ahead.

## St Paul's United Church Statement of Operations January 1 to December 31, 2023

|                          | 2023 BUDGET      | YTD Actuals      |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Income</b>            |                  |                  |
| Donations                |                  |                  |
| Offering                 | 248,000          | 241,717          |
| Year end appeal          | 13,000           | 22,550           |
| Memorial donations       | 6,159            | 4,349            |
| Anniversary appeal       | 12,000           | 13,247           |
| Capital Repair Donations |                  | 1,078            |
| Stewardship/Fund raising |                  |                  |
| Hospitality              | 10,000           | 17,294           |
| Gift Cards (Vista)       | 3,000            | 2,252            |
| Special Events           | 12,000           | 13,394           |
| Other                    | 3,500            | 1,925            |
| Facility rentals         | 86,000           | 89,961           |
| Solar panels             | 3,248            | 3,144            |
| Grants                   |                  |                  |
| CFOA                     | 7,000            | 7,000            |
| Trustees                 | 5,000            | 6,100            |
| UCW (dishwasher)         |                  | 3,000            |
| Eco-Justice projects     |                  | (42)             |
| <b>Total Income</b>      | <b>\$408,907</b> | <b>\$426,969</b> |

## Letter to the Congregation — continued

### 2023 Info for AGM

#### Baptism

Briella Marie McKenzie  
 Ruby Rae McKenzie  
**Children of:** Leslie & Nick Hillier  
 Skyler Elizabeth Tuck  
**Child of:** Josh & Christie Tuck  
 Charlotte Elizabeth Beers  
 Abigail May Beers  
**Children of:** Brent & Amy Beers

#### In Memoriam

|           |                      |           |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| 10-Dec-23 | Faye Hunter          | 13-Mar-23 |
| 10-Dec-23 | Laurence Wood        | 18-Apr-23 |
|           | Gordon Lightfoot     | 01-May-23 |
| 18-Jun-23 | Deanna Peacock       | 19-May-23 |
|           | Marcia Stephen       | 22-Jul-23 |
| 14-May-23 | Donald Davidson      | 17-Jul-23 |
| 14-May-23 | Sylvio (Sid) Couroux | 12-Dec-23 |
|           | Margo Thompson       | 22-Dec-23 |



The Remit to Remove Structural Barriers to Developing and Sustaining an Autonomous Indigenous Church has brought the Leadership Team into the realm of work with the broader United Church of Canada. It has required a great deal of reading and discussion to understand the historical context for the vote and to recognize its implications. It has brought us into thinking about colonialism and the church's role in that as well as what reconciliation can look like. Fortunately, the General Council has provided some excellent videos and information sessions to help us. We will be ready for our vote in March 2024. Throughout this work is the ongoing work of communication. In fact, because St Paul's operates with many committees each empowered to complete their work without approvals from a central body such as a Council, communication is the thread that holds it together. At least, most of the time! For this reason, I frequently attend various meetings (worship, property, finance, coordinators etc) simply to hear what they are working on and what concerns there may be. The Leadership Team members recognize the importance of communication and have looked for ways to keep everyone informed. We have used letters in the weekly newsletter, announcements and presentations both during worship and lunch and learn. We have also encouraged work on the website to make it more user friendly. I have no doubt that communication will continue to be a theme for 2024.

Overall, it has been a very good year filled not only with hard work but the joys of camaraderie at Pub nights and the inspiration of worship filled with music and thought-provoking sermons. We have challenged ourselves with new worship formats and danced the night away to big band sounds. We shared the sadness of saying goodbye to our much-loved music director, Blair and opened our arms to someone offering the fresh musical perspective Dan brings. We are a community of faith living our faith as fully as we are able.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the support and guidance I have received from Mary Phelps, Ted Reeve and Eric Sayle. Their encouragement and support have been invaluable. Also thank you to my fellow members of the Leadership Team – Fred Kallin, Chris Atkinson, Mary Johnston, Harvey Watt, Mary Phelps, Kathy Duncan and Craig Maltby. Your thoughtful consideration of the questions before us is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

**Gloria Tozek**

## Congregational Life Report 2023

Cathy and Eric Sayle continue as Co-Chairs of Congregational Life, which encompasses the Accessibility, Hospitality, Membership, Pastoral Care and Stewardship Committees. They also organize the Welcome Team, where volunteers meet and welcome newcomers and congregational members in the Atrium before and after Sunday services.

In the fall of 2023, the Welcome Team hosted a BBQ and evening of fellowship for people new to St. Paul's.

Monthly meetings take place with the Leadership Team Past Chair (Mary Phelps), Minister Ted Reeve and the Coordinators of Eco-Justice and Social Action (Irene Green), Worship and Rituals (Chris Peterson) and Spiritual Growth and Present Chair of Leadership (Gloria Tozek). These gatherings keep all informed of the projects and initiatives taking place within each committee, and are used to plan into the future for the good of the St. Paul's community.

In conjunction with Stewardship, many successful Pub Nights and a Big Band Dance have been held at St. Paul's to welcome the community.

Organization of the visitation for **Gordon Lightfoot** was managed by Congregational Life with many St. Paul's members assisting in helping the more than 2500 visitors to pay their respects to the great Canadian Legend.



## Orillia Mariposa Grandmothers to Grandmothers 2023 Report... continued

We could not do any of this without the use of the parlour, kitchen, banquet hall and Memorial Hall. We also use many tables and chairs and then store some of our signs and posters in designated cupboards. Katrina Hunt is incredibly helpful in the office and other St Paul's volunteers such as Joan Tonner and Robert Chapman always there to help. Thanks to Joe Cornelisse for including our information in the newsletter.

The Grandmothers program, a component of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, has been in place for twenty years. Initially it was established in response to the overwhelming Aids crisis in sub-Saharan Africa. Some of those original grandmothers are still facing the long-lasting effects of the HIV epidemic and the inequalities that drove it.

One of the keys to the success of the program is the very direct link via the Foundation between community led organizations like ours and community led organizations overseas.



## Orillia Mariposa Grandmothers to Grandmothers 2023 Report

From September to June each year the Orillia Mariposa Grandmothers to Grandmothers group meets in the parlour the third Friday of each month. There are usually around twenty members in attendance and the meetings last for an hour with some socializing before and after. There are also approximately forty associate members who volunteer to help with fundraising events.

Agenda items include lengthy discussions about the various fundraisers, news about the ongoing work of the Stephen Lewis Foundation and announcements about other upcoming events in the community.

We also use some of the other facilities at St Paul's for fundraising events. In December the annual and very successful cookie walk (80 varieties) was held in Memorial Hall with set up one day and the sale the next day. This year people were lined up at least an hour before the doors opened and the sale of 600 doz. cookies completed in a couple of hours.

Mid-February we held the annual book exchange, again in Memorial Hall . The public bring in a few books, make a donation and then leave with 'new' books. Books of all genres are available, including children's books, and last year storyteller Susan Charters joined us. She will do so again this year.

In May we held the High Tea in a Box fundraiser and sold over 125 boxes. Originally it was meant to be a served tea but due to COVID restrictions we decided to make it a takeaway box with sandwiches, cookies, and a cup and saucer. We use the banquet hall and kitchen for preparation and distribution.

Proceeds from the fundraising events bring in anywhere from \$3000 to \$4000 and last year we were able to send almost \$14,000 to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. This does not include some individual donations in honour of a friend or family member. As of this year we make a standard donation to St Paul's for the use of the facilities. All the work is done by volunteers who also contribute books, plants, goodies, and of course time.

## Stewardship Report for 2023:

Members of the Stewardship Committee are: Danielle Todd, Ted Reeve, Joe Watt, Mary Phelps and Lois Barrager (Chair).

We meet once a month and have continued with our meetings over Zoom until June. We are now meeting at St. Paul's beginning in September 2023.

January, we had a Pub Night and Silent Auction. I was well attended and raised over \$3000.00.

February, we held Pub Night #3, and it was also a good evening raising over \$1,600.00.

March, we had another very successful Pub Night raising over \$1,700.00.

Mays Pub Night was held. It was not as successful, as many different activities were happening that night.

Anniversary Appeal in May was well received.

Sept...a "Big Band Dance" was held and proved to be very popular. Everyone enjoyed dancing to the "Oldies". This dance raised over \$4,000.00. Many people volunteered and helped make this a memorable evening.

October, We held a Pub Night. Good Audience enjoyed the entertainment.

A Wagon Ride to enjoy the Autumn leaves was enjoyed at the Beers Farm.



## Stewardship Report continued...

November we held our last Pub Night of the year and attendance was good.

Vista Cards: Joan Toner and Lois Barrager are now looking after Vista Sales. Many thanks to everyone supporting this venture. This year we made \$2,251.65 profit.

This fund raiser will continue in 2024.

**Season of Commitment:** The Committee sent out letters to members of the congregation so they could renew their commitment for 2024. Forty-eight were returned.

The Stewardship Committee recognizes a Volunteer of the Month. St. Paul's is so fortunate to have so many dedicated members and special teams that keep St. Paul's running so smoothly.

### Future Endeavours for 2024:

Pub Nights planned for Feb. March, Oct. Nov.  
Maple Sugar Days March at the Beers Farm  
Big Band Dance in April  
Anniversary Appeal in May  
Strawberry Social in June  
BBQ in September as a Welcome Back Celebration



## The EJSA (Eco Justice Social Action Committee) – 2023 Report

- Couchiching Jubilee House joined Redwood Park Community. Our commitment remains the same for change over and Christmas gift. Expenses this year for change over exceeded the budget (\$1125). The committee will pay attention to this moving forward.
- Coldest Night of the Year 2023 We raised \$5196.06 to support The Lighthouse
- Lunch and Learn with Madeleine Fournier speaking on Sustainable development for Orillia.
- Church Service focused on Earth Day Feb 26
- Guest speaker Lucy Dilkus spoke at service about Red Dress Day (May)
- Supported and provided some monetary needs for The Sharing Garden
- Supported the Learning Center's Coat drive by having St Paul's be a drop off
- Sponsored space for Lake Simcoe Coalition Event
- This years (2023.24) focus is Truth and Reconciliation. We will support and sponsor space for events for The Gojijing Friendship Circle.
- Raised \$1170 in gift cards for Green Haven





## Shining Waters 2023 report...continued

Over the past several months, the Communities of Faith Commission has been discussing how to bring a theological perspective into discussions regarding property. The intent is to provide Communities of Faith with tools (questions) to support these discussions at a local level.

Note that my term with the Commission ends at the AGM this May.

Irene Green volunteered to join the Social and Ecological Justice Commission in 2023. She is part of the poverty and homelessness subcommittee which then means that she attends the United Church Guaranteed Income committee. Thank you, Irene for being part of this valuable work at the regional level.

Respectfully submitted by

**Gloria Tozek**



SHINING WATERS  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
The United Church of Canada

## Ramp It Up

This past year a major capital project was completed. We were able to replace the exterior accessible ramp and the east Atrium stairs. Work on the ramp was originally considered during our major renovations of the Sanctuary 7 years ago. Updated design work needed to be completed this year before the actual construction could begin. Replacement of the east Atrium stairs was included in the project taking advantage of the construction team.

The total cost of the ramp and stairs was \$138,850, all of which was covered by a government grant of \$53,661, a major donation and the contributions of many. In 2023 donations alone were \$8,178. With huge thanks to the many donors, general contractor, Wes Brennan, and architect, Jessica MacDonald, this work was completed this year.



Since completion, the ramp has been used by many from the St Paul's congregation

## Building Operations Committee - Annual Report 2023

St. Paul's continues to retain regular clients while attracting new ones.

Orillia Concert Band, Orillia Vocal Ensemble and Orillia Silver Band make St. Paul's the regular home base for their weekly rehearsals.

The OCB and OVE hold all their concerts here and the OSB are holding some of their events at St. Paul's

We have become the main venue for birthday parties and celebrations for a core local population of young Indian families through word of mouth.

This year Lakehead University started using St. Paul's Centre as a space for the department of education classes. These are expected to expand into 2024/2025



## Shining Waters Regional Council (SWRC) Regional Representative 2023 Report

The Annual General Meeting for the SWRC was held at North Bramalea United Church the week-end of May 26 to 28th. The theme was So What? Faith in Action. Throughout the meeting there was opportunity for attendees to meet and chat formally and informally. This was done in an effort to strengthen communications across the many Communities of Faith in our Region. In addition to the reports from each Commission, there were four (4) proposals presented: A Vision for the Post Pandemic Church from a Community Ministries Perspective, Funding Community Ministry as a Priority for the Church, Process for Election of the President-elect and Working for a Guaranteed Livable Income.

You can read these proposals on the SWRC website at <https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/about/regional-meetings/regional-meeting-2023/>

As a member of the Communities of Faith Commission, I was involved in the development of the two proposals related to Community Ministry. Both proposals were accepted and a working group is now implementing next steps to ensure ongoing financial support for the existing Community Ministries and possible future developments.

A joint meeting was held between Shining Waters Region and Canadian Shield Region on September 19th to hear information regarding the Remit to Remove Structural barriers to Developing an Autonomous Indigenous Church. The General Secretary, Rev. Michael Blair provided history and context for us. Immediately following the joint meeting, SWRC met separately to hold a vote on the Remit. The result was in favour. The next step was to inform General Council.

## Volunteer Office 2023 Report

During this past year, I have helped in the main office doing filing, reception requests, power points for the Sunday service, collating year end reports. For me, volunteering is giving of yourself with no expectations of remuneration. What you do receive is the self-satisfaction of impacting someone else's life in the way God taught us. Working as a volunteer in the main office is very satisfying and allows me the opportunity to meet and talk to people, giving them a helping hand. This can be done by answering any questions or working the photocopier. I am also there to assist the staff in the main office, giving them a hand with a variety of tasks as needed.

My other opportunity to volunteer is to create PowerPoints for Sunday service. These are not as hard to do as they may look and if you are able to type a letter on the computer you can have fun and create a PowerPoint. I would like to acknowledge Katie Maltby who created the summer PowerPoints. What a treat to have a summer off!! Also, a big thank you to Dave Duff and Bruce McWhinnie who covered when I was travelling the world. I am available to help anyone who would like to join me in this opportunity, and you too can be a volunteer.

A quick thank you or expression of appreciation is all it takes to make my day! It lets me know that what I do makes an impact on someone and creates a lasting memory. St. Paul's is blessed with many people who have hidden talents. Let your light shine through and join me, connecting with the community both inside and outside the walls of St. Paul's.

**-Chris Atkinson**

## Annual Greening Report 2023

### January:

Thanks to David Duff, and Fred Kalin mechanical instrumentation was constructed, and a procedure was implemented, to better regulate the furnace for greater savings and reducing carbon.

### February:

Preparation and submission to the federal Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Grant for the installation of Heat pumps to cool the Great Hall

Huge thanks to Fred Kalin, Bruce McWhinnie, Dave Duff for their concentrated efforts

Update. Follow up contact X 2 has indicated that the grant has yet to be reviewed!!!

### March:

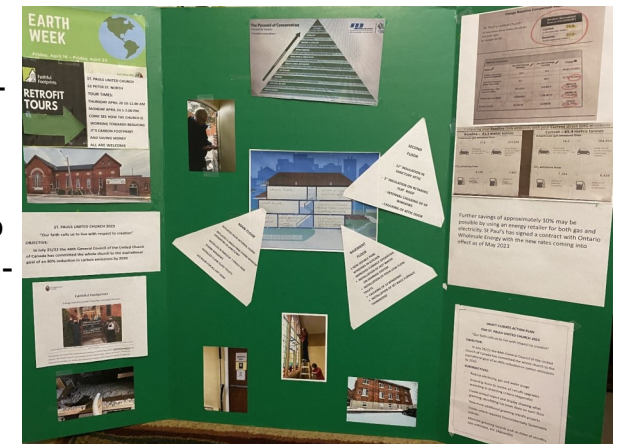
Involvement in Shinning Waters Regional Group discussions and presentations of how to reduce our churches' carbon footprint. Information obtained indicated that St. Pauls is one of the leading churches towards this goal. Also, gleaned, information useful in creating a draft Climate Action Plan for the church

### April:

On **Earth Day** Sunday Greening presented an update of some climate change highs and lows to the congregation

During Earth Week, Greening hosted two Retrofit Tours, that were open to the community, of the various Greening efforts accomplished by St. Pauls to date. This initiative was promoted by the National Church's Faithful Footsteps program.

Calculations to date, taking into account the Heating Degree Days over the winter months since 2018, indicate we have been able to reduce our electricity energy by 14%, or approximately \$1000. /Year. In addition, we have reduced our gas usage by 12.5% or approximately \$2500. /Year!



## Greening Report 2023... continued

### Summer-Fall:

A draft Climate Action Plan was created for St. Pauls detailing information such as the history of past efforts, suggestions for maintenance scheduling, and criteria for determining where future efforts might be most profitable both for money savings and also for reducing our carbon footprint. It is presently under review.

Church's Cleaning Bee began a comprehensive heater cleaning effort in order to maximize their efficiency.

### Acknowledgement:

As Greening has no formal committee, it was very thankful to have the support of Katrina Hunt, Stan Lippert, Jim Harris, Carolyn Grant, Fred Kallin, Dave Duff, Don Atkinson, Cathy Marshall, Pauline Radmore and Bruce McWhinnie.

**Doug Daley, Greening Lead**



## AV Report 2023 ... continued

### Banquet Hall:

- moved streaming equipment to Banquet Hall for summer services and back to the Great Hall for fall.

- new computer purchased for Banquet Hall console
- Replaced Amp and mixer in Banquet Hall



- September - K-spiders added to podiums in Great Hall and Banquet Hall for more laptop connectivity.



## AV Report 2023

### Everything is Awesome! (Rick Brown)

- Did audio, PowerPoint and streamed a lot of services and a few funerals. On average 12 to 17 households watch the service live each week, and more throughout the week.
- Gordon Lightfoot's funeral was just in May.



### Great Hall:

- New IP cameras purchased, and both cameras installed on the East

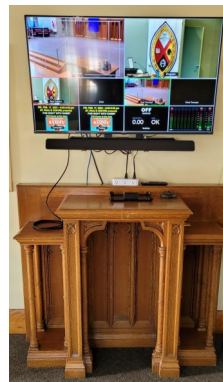


cameras purchased, and both cameras installed on the West Walls.

- Expanded ceiling lighting from 1 universe to 2 universes – allows for more theatre lights in the ceiling and control on the floor.

### • Cleaned up Atrium Streaming equipment

- New TV, New wall mount, new sound Bar, all mounted on wall,
- removed 2x4s, speakers and stands.
- Existing standing Desk moved against wall.
- Correct cabling including electrical, instead of running along floor and under door.



on

## Spiritual Growth and Christian Education Annual Report for 2023

This past year has seen a very active children/youth/family ministry. Forest Church was offered several times including a walk in the maple bush in the early spring, a Thanksgiving hay ride and a candle lit walk into the woods as part of our Christmas celebrations. Many thanks to the Beers family for sharing their wonderful family farm with us! Sparrow Lake camp week-end provided a time for fun and an opportunity for our different generations to spend time together.

The recent re-introduction of story-time during worship has been well received by the children and adults. It gives us an opportunity to recognize and welcome the children in our midst.



Thank you to Becky and Nick Bauman, the Thorn family, the Johnston family, the Gaudie family and the Beers family for their hard work and dedication.

Two small groups focusing on spirituality and creativity were offered – one in the spring and one in the fall. Using *The Artist's Rule – Nurturing Your Creative Soul with Monastic Wisdom* by Christine Valters-Paintner as a guide, participants reflected on the readings provided and engaged in a wide variety of

creative activities such as photography, poetry writing, walking meditation and painting. Discussion each week deepens the experience. Thank you to all who attended and to Louise Calvert-Dale for co-facilitating with me.

Our Learning Resource Centre was ably maintained by Tary Trottier. Many people have commented on how welcoming the space feels.

The Learning Circle met weekly throughout the year. We read *The Myth of Normal* by Gabor Maté and are currently studying *Meeting My Treaty Kin* by Heather Menzies. There have been many deep discussions as well as time for laughter and personal reflection.



## Spiritual Growth and Christian Education 2024 Report...continued

Work toward reconciliation has continued throughout the year. During National Indigenous month (June), we worked with the **Gojijing Friendship Circle** to offer a week-end of educational events including the water bundle ceremony held in during St Paul's worship, a sunrise ceremony at Couchiching Beach Park and a day of workshops for children from local schools as well as adults from our community.



Toward the end of 2023, it was decided to experiment with combining Spiritual Growth with Eco-justice and Social Action due to small numbers in each committee. It has given us the opportunity to reflect on the intersections between our spirituality and our social justice work. In December, we supported the Gojijing Friendship Circle in the very successful Aadsooke Storytelling event held at winter solstice.

Respectfully Submitted by

**Gloria Tozek**

## United Church Women Unit #2 - Annual Report 2023

UCW Unit #2 met on the third Tuesday afternoon of each month, in members' homes.

Our 12 active members gathered for conversation, fellowship, support and potlucks!

New members are always welcome to drop in anytime.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Weber.

## United Church Women Unit #2



## UCW Unit #1 2023 Annual Report

We welcomed several new members and were saddened by the death of Faye Hunter, a long-time member.

We collected warm items (hats, gloves, and socks) in both January and December and delivered them to the Lighthouse.

The Unit gave \$3,000 towards the cost of the **new dishwasher**, which was greatly appreciated.



We paid for 45 poinsettias to be delivered to various congregants, staff members and volunteers.

The Unit enjoyed fellowship and sharing each month (except July and August) and had plenty of laughs! We invite any newcomers to join our group.

Respectfully submitted by **Deanna Carbert**

## Membership Committee 2023 Report

This Committee looks after the physical well-being of St. Paul's. On the Committee are Clive Bithell, Robert Chapman, Don Atkinson, Jim Harris, and others as required. Custodian Stan Lippert is Staff Advisor. Last year, the Committee responded to many challenges from roof to basement.

As much as possible, maintenance was carried out by **Custodian Stan**, in some instances saving St. Paul's hundreds of dollars in expenses. For some work, though, specialized trades were engaged, as with work done on the lift, and with the largest and most expensive project of the year, replacement of under-materials and shingles on the sloped roof above the Music Centre.

Inside, there were repairs in washrooms - a new toilet in one of the men's washrooms - new taps on sinks in the Memorial Hall kitchen, new dishwasher in Main kitchen, wall protection along narrow corridors where objects are moved, door stops and locks on interior doors.

Outside, a new light fixture was installed to light the accessible ramp on Peter Street, and steps were replaced on the stairway leading to the staff entrance.

Dave Duff led continuing efforts to balance our heating system. The boiler is old, and the controls do not allow for much adjustment. We acquired two vacuum cleaners by donation. When it was time to get the snow blower ready for winter we discovered someone else needed it more than we did; a new one was acquired with assistance from Orillia's Home Hardware store.

Late in the year Rev. Dr. Ted became involved with the Committee in helping to cover an area of flat roof against flowing water from the sloped roof above the Music Centre. Remediation of that will be a project in 2024.

respectfully submitted,

**Jim Harris, Chair**

## Prayer and Meditation Group – Report 2023

The Meditation group facilitated by Margot Crowder Davidson ran this past year on Monday afternoons from January 2023 through to May 2023 when a member of group, Deanna Peacock, died. The group resumed in September and ran through to November 2023. The group started up again in Jan 2024.

With the death of a second member of the group, Rosalind Cleland, in November, the group has dwindled to a mere 5 people. Despite this, the group remains a strong, committed, and supportive one. Margot has not felt up to adding more people to the group currently, as it is still processing the loss of these two dear friends and long-time members of the group. (about 20 years each)

The group continues to follow the Small Group Model with a Covenant as taught by Karen Hilfman Millson so many long years ago. It begins with a centering and check in by each person, followed by a topic/reading and discussion. It then moves into a guided meditation with music in the background, followed by a period of journaling – written or visual. The group then comes back together to share a little of their experience and learnings, followed by a closure with prayers and the song 'Walk With Me'. Astoundingly, this group has now been running consistently since 1996, having completed 58 different series and 40 different topics. The group itself has had a total of 43 members over all this time.

A connected Potluck Group has arisen out of the meditation group. It began meeting monthly and now typically gathers twice a year – December and June. This has always been a wonderful time of fellowship, conversation, and good food.

**Facilitator: Margot Crowder Davidson**



## Pastoral Care Report 2023

The Committee was busy throughout the year reaching out to our members who needed support, care, and comfort.

We welcomed Jim McKean who rejoined the Committee in the summer and we will miss our long-time member, Sue Braun, when she and Harry move away in March 2024.

Cathy Sayle continued to send or deliver Get-Well, Thinking of You and Condolence cards on a regular basis.

Our team of prayer shawl knitters/crocheters was busy and our thanks go to Angie Lewis, Cathy Sayle, Irene Green, Nancy Wiebe and Katrina Hunt.

Poinsettias were delivered to 45 members in long-term care or at home and to St. Paul's staff. Once again, we are grateful to UCW1 for generously covering the cost of these plants.

Several Committee members took part in the "Service of Love and Remembrance" on December 20th.

We will continue to support our St. Paul's family in the safest way possible. Requests for assistance may be made by contacting a Committee member or the office.

**Committee:** Sally Brady (Chair), Cathy Sayle, Beth McCall, Sue Braun, Jim McKean

