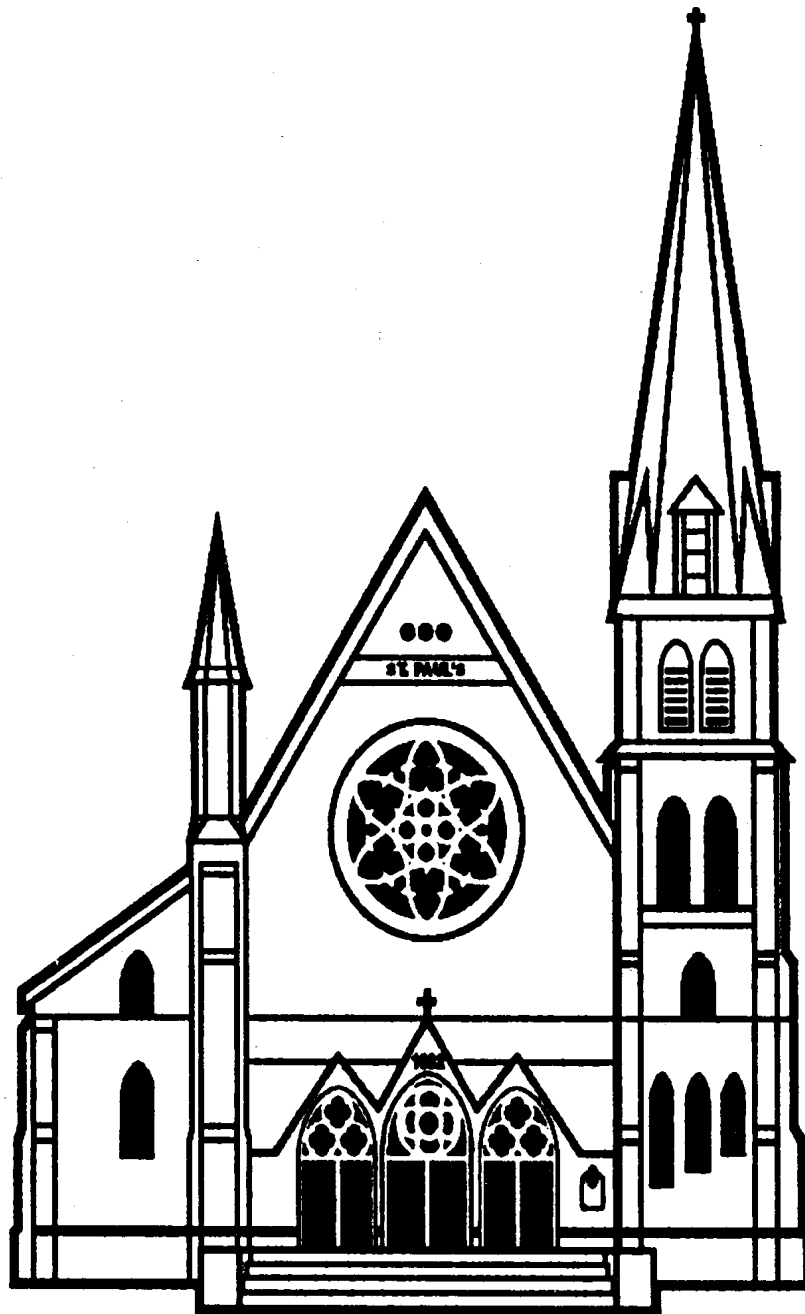


# St. Paul's United Church



## 2020 Annual Report

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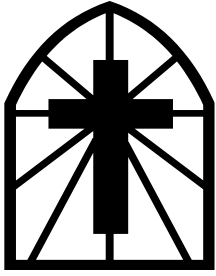
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**CHURCH STAFF  
2020**

<b>MINISTERS</b>	<b>Reverend Michelle Armstrong</b> <b>Reverend Richard Bowley</b>
<b>ORGANIST</b>	<b>Dr. Sharon Pond</b>
<b>CHOIR DIRECTOR</b>	<b>Alexis Ervin</b>
<b>CHURCH MANAGER</b>	<b>Eric Hotte</b>
<b>CHURCH CUSTODIAL</b>	<b>Ron Yateman</b> <b>Tammy Landry</b>

**Mission Statement:**

**To glorify God through Worship, proclaiming the  
Gospel of Christ and serving others in Christ's name.**



# IN MEMORIAM 2020

Rolland Otto Krause    May 7

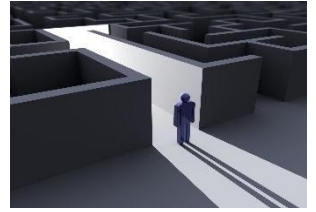
Robert G. McCullough    May 14

Dorothy G. Irving    May 23

James Archibald Smith    July 5

***“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”***

*- Isaiah 41:10*



It almost does not need to be said that this year did not turn out the way any of us expected. It can be easy when reflecting on 2020 to feel down about the things that we wanted to do yet could not. While the year has provided ample challenges and has required us to be flexible, the truth is, we did not face the year alone. In the face of our natural human responses of fear and discouragement, we take hope and strength in the promise that God has been and will be with us. As Romans 8:28 reminds us “we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” We have been called to work for and with Christ in our community and in the lives of each other, and this past year we continued to live into this mission.

In January, we faced horrible weather with significant snow and freezing rain. While services were cancelled for much of the month, we continued to support those most vulnerable providing shelter at night thanks to the work of Ron Yateman and the community volunteers who were able to keep the doors open until the pandemic stopped everything in its tracks.

In February we welcomed Rev. Richard back from the vacation time he took following his sabbatical and for a month and a half all seemed to be getting back to normal. When the pandemic hit, we quickly had to shift gears moving much of what the church was doing online and to the phone. This was a steep learning curve and at times it was tough as we adjusted to the changes COVID-19 brought to the church and our lives in general. Yet in the challenges the truth is that God was with us working for good, inspiring new ways of being and bringing hope and comfort.

In all the technology challenges we faced, God was teaching us to extend grace! A bonus from having learned how to use technology for our worship during the pandemic is that storm days that have caused worship to grind to a halt, are far less likely to happen in the future. We have also learned how to host meetings online which may serve us too.

Being asked to stay at home also provided us time to develop our faith and trust in Christ. I was involved in the development of a wide variety of activities for faith development at home, be sure to read the Christian Education Report for more details. With the abrupt end to seeing each other face to face, a phone tree was created to help us be connected. For those who committed to the regular phone calls there was a sense of connection and deepening of relationships. Some amazing and unexpected friendships developed. COVID-19 also didn't stop us from providing for the needs of those facing food insecurity through the pantry and brown bag lunches.

This year also provided me with the opportunity to attend Rendezvous (a United Church gathering that happens every three years for youth, young adults, and their leaders) when the pandemic forced it to move online. I was blessed by the keynote speakers, the indigenous leaders time, and other participants who shared what they were doing with their youth groups. Also because of COVID-19 the Festival of Homiletics, a prominent preaching conference which happens annually, was moved online allowing me to “attend” learning from some of the best preachers in Canada and the USA.

Amid the uncertainty of this year's pandemic, my family welcomed our daughter Ella in June and I officially started maternity leave on June 12. Again, I want to say Thank You to everyone who sent well wishes and helped us welcome her to the world. On December 27 she was baptized here by Rev. Richard, allowing me just to be her parent. This year I am so thankful to God for the gift of our girl and the community of faith that she was welcomed into.

The journey through 2020 was not what we had expected but through it all we journeyed with God. Within this annual report our committees and groups will be sharing the story of walking with Christ in 2020. I want to thank everyone who has been open to and responded to God's callings to participate in our mission. As we reflect on the past year and look forward to the year to come, let us not be afraid or discouraged, because God is with us and is at work in all we do.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Michelle Armstrong



***Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!***

***Psalm 130:1-2***

Kindred in Christ,

To say that this has been an unexpected year would be a massive understatement. When 2020 began with my return, we were looking forward to a solid six months of team ministry-led work as a church looking to the future. It was not long before the virus that many (including myself in those early days of February) discounted as “just a bad flu,” was a real cause for concern leading to the beginning of the shut-down in March.

Rather than celebrate in our sanctuary, we spent the next six months (March to August) worshipping virtually through a combination of Zoom, YouTube, and Facebook. From March to June, Rev. Michelle and I wrestled with technology, failed as often (more often) than we succeeded, but through it all we were able to provide a space for you to engage with the word, and maybe even hear Christ in your own lives.

After Rev. Michelle went on maternity leave, we continued to struggle with technology, but step by step we began to get a grasp on how to be a worshipping faith community in a very different time. Worship services were still shared with our kindred at Wilmot United over the summer, but it was all pre-recorded which meant fewer in-the-moment glitches.

In the fall, we were blessed to be able to return to our sanctuary for worship but for many, Zoom had become a safer way to worship. Since then worship services have become something of a hybrid with both in-person and online components.

Besides worship, we did what we could to serve the community. As safely as possible, our brown bag lunch program continued throughout the pandemic, along with an adapted version of The Pantry (which returned to Wednesday mornings in the fall).

One of the biggest changes that came during the 2020 pandemic was my seeking an end to my call here at St. Paul's United Church. After six years our paths will part and we will find new ways of doing ministry absent from each other's presence, but inspired by our shared history.

In the 2019 annual report, I finished with, “With the coming of a new year, comes a new dawn - a new day - for us to walk in the light of our God. As we long for deeper connections with God and with one another, let us seek the ways to deepen our faith as we journey together.” Those words were still true for 2020, a year that meant deepening relationships required a lot more work since we could not meet in person, see family and friends as often as we like, or do many of those things that help forge and strengthen our relationships. But we found a way to strengthen one another, to be here for each other even when we couldn't be right there.

As we march on separate paths into 2021, I pray that you take what you have learned about nurturing your relationships with God and with one another into the days and years ahead.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Richard Bowley  
August 25, 2014 - December 31, 2020

## Message from the Church Manager

First and foremost I love working for St. Paul's, I'm so incredibly grateful and thankful for my job. 2020 was a year like no other at St. Paul's. Our God is so good and seeing the Lord's blessings shine through those dark clouds made 2020 bearable.

Being Church Manager in 2020 was a bit of a roller coaster, lots of time waiting yet scary and a little exciting; as with all roller coasters it can be a bit bumpy sometimes. I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the people of St. Paul's for your kindness, grace and love, not to mention our amazing volunteers. I would never have been able to accomplish all the work that goes along with this position without you..

I am really enjoying my time here at St. Paul's and I am very grateful to have this Job. Each day brings different challenges and celebrations. I enjoy working with everyone in the church and especially with the homeless and hungry who come to the door needing assistance. I have the opportunity to laugh with you, cry with you. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your life.

Eric Hotte

**Jeremiah 29:11**

***For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.***

**John 3:16**

***For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.***

**GOD** is *Good,*  
*all* the time.

## **Minutes of St. Paul's Annual Meeting July 12, 2020 (over Zoom)**

- I. Constitution of Meeting – Meeting began at 1:00PM. Jane went over the meeting setup, including voting
- II. Opening Worship/Devotions - Opening prayer offered by Rev. Richard
- III. Consideration of Draft Agenda – Motion to approve Agenda (Greg Morton, Dave Thorne).  
Motion Approved
- IV. New Business – No New Business brought forward.
- V. Motion to Adjourn at 2:30 pm (Kelly Simpson, Andrew Steeves)
- VI. 2019 Memoriam – Rev. Richard read the names of members who passed away in 2019
- VII. Consideration of Annual Report
  - a) Jen Pettryshen offered the Heritage and Resources update for 2019
  - b) Finance Committee – Disbanded. Board will pick up most of this work for now.  
Jane expressed the need to appoint a Treasurer who is a member of the Board.
  - c) Property Committee – impacted by COVID-19 pandemic. Lost tenants renting space.
  - d) UCW – Highlighted the \$10K raised by UCW for the church in 2019
  - e) Positive Engagement – disbanded in 2019.
  - f) Worship – In need of new members
  - g) Pantry – Has been active during the pandemic

Agenda interrupted by a Request about what used to be known as the JNAC. The new process is called Community of Faith Review. There is a process involved in requesting one. This process is what determines the roles within the congregation.

- VIII. Adoption of 2019 Minutes – Motion to Adopt (Alanna Palmer, Tammy Coughlan).  
Motion passed
- IX. Adoption of 2019 Annual Report – Motion to Adopt (?, Kelly Simpson) Motion passed.
- X. No correspondence entered
- XI. Trustees – Motion 1 from Annual Report (Andrew Steeves, Frank Goddard). Motion carried  
Motion 2 from Annual Report (Andrew Steeves, Alanna Palmer) – Motion carried



## Minutes of St. Paul's Annual Meeting July 12, 2020 (continued)

XII. Financial Statements – Motion to approve 2019 Financial statements (Ron Naugler, Alanna Palmer)  
Motion carried.

XIII. Consideration of 2020 Budget - Jane presented the 2020 budget (Tammy Coughlan, Donna Chauvin) Motion carried. Rev. Richard to post budget on website.

XIV. Nominations:

Board – Tammy Landry and Ron Yateman (Jen Petryshen, Tammy Coughlan). Motion carried

Treasurer – Call for new Treasurer – vacant

Regional Representatives – Jen Petryshen, Ron Naugler to continue. Jane to take third position.

Trustees – Lois Walker, Carole Peacock (Frank Goddard, Alanna Palmer) Motion carried. Minutes submitted by Ann LeBlanc

XV. Motion to appoint Daye Kelly for 2020 (Ron Naugler, Andrew Steeves) Motion carried

XVI. Motion to hold congregational meeting in September 2020 (Ron Naugler, ?) with suggestions of Financial Statements for 2020, Budget for 2020/2021, M&P.

XVII. Motion to empower the Board for 2020 (Roger Miller, Greg Morton). Motion carried

XVIII. Patty Train offered a motion to discuss the possibilities of working with other local United Church congregations where possible (Patty Trail, Greg Morton). Motion carried

XIX. Motion to adjourn and closing prayer offered by Rev. Richard.



## Congregational Board - 2020

**Mark 4:35-38: Leaving the crowd behind, they took Jesus along, just as he was, in the boat. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"**

Was 2020 really only one year? Your Board has been working very hard to try to keep the boat afloat in what felt like not one but a line of heavy squalls.

The Board spent a great deal of its time attending to very difficult financial circumstances and ensuring that the congregation was informed. The Finance Committee disbanded and the Trustees took over investment management. We started in late 2019 with an overhaul of our financial reporting system. Thanks to Eric and bookkeeper Dixie Spencer, who, in the second half of 2020, were able to provide concise monthly statements. We applied for and received some federal assistance and started using monthly housing rent to cashflow operating costs (while maintaining the mandated \$30K reserve). The FundScrip campaign was approved and under Carole Peacock's leadership offers hope for additional revenues. Year-end 2020 has been markedly smoother than the previous one!

On the staffing front we were delighted to support Rev. Armstrong as she planned her maternity leave and even happier to welcome Ella Grace on June 9th. Rev. Richard provided exceptional service and leadership for the whole year and was single handedly responsible for making our move to online worship possible. In addition to supporting the ministers and providing "air traffic control" in the office, Eric came up with a way to keep the brown bag lunch and pantry ministries going after a brief interruption early in the pandemic. He rebuilt our parking business after the shutdown and continued to work with our various building users and tenants throughout. Richard and Eric worked with the Worship Committee, M&P and the Board, to develop the COVID procedures, worship plans for the fall, and worship/pastoral care plans for the spring of 2021.

With the start of combined in-person and online services in September, we have been able to re-establish some of the sense of community that we associate with St. Paul's, although our building is still very quiet most of the time. We are thankful to Sharon Pond for her continued dedication and excellence. Sharon provided two beautiful recitals in the fall and at Christmas. With great regret we accepted Alexis Ervin's resignation as choir director at the end of September but then she kept right on helping with recorded music for our services. Bless you, Alexis!

Harder for the Board than all these challenges was walking with Rev. Richard through his decision to leave St. Paul's. He continued to inspire, lead, challenge, argue, love and laugh with us right up until his last day and he will be immeasurably missed.

Rev. Richard's departure at the end of December marks the end of a vision. We didn't achieve the bold, hopeful goals that we set for ourselves in 2015 - the ones that spoke to the need for two ministers. Now we need to, once again, seek God's guidance as we redefine ourselves and the St. Paul's of the future. The Community of Faith profile team has been working on this task and it is likely that their report will be the centrepiece of the annual report for 2021.

I would like to recognize the exceptional service of the members of the Board in 2020: Secretary Ann LeBlanc; Jennifer Petryshn, Donna Chauvin and Tammy Coughlan started the year; Tammy Landry and Ron Yateman joined us after the annual meeting in July. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. It's been quite a ride.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Blakely, Chair, Congregational Board

**Mark 4:39-41: Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"**

## Board of Trustees - 2020

The Trustees at St. Paul's are responsible for the financial and physical assets of the Church including the sanctuary, hall and, jointly with the Provincial Government, two low-income rental properties.

In their deliberations the Trustees are guided by a vision which we call St. Paul's 250. In this vision our sanctuary and hall are in excellent repair and in regular use for worship, concerts, plays, lectures and other community activities when the church celebrates its 250th anniversary 100 years from now.

The Trustees who served in January 2020 were Noreen Barwise, Alma Bidlake, Frank Goddard, Mary Jacobs, Roland Krause, Royal MacDonald, Alanna Palmer and Andrew Steeves. During the year we lost two Trustees: longtime member, Roland Krause who passed away in the spring and Alma Bidlake who resigned. Joining Trustees were Carole Peacock, Lois Walker and Bill Paterson.

The Trustees met nine times during the year:

- Six times as Trustees only:
- February 11
- April 2 (informal discussion)
- August 26 (with Auditor and Lawyer (Jill Stairs and Karen Stilwell respectively))
- October 7 (with Sarah Charters of United Church of Canada and Lawyer)
- October 21 (with Lawyer)
- November 12 (with Lawyer)
- Once with the Board:
- May 12 (with the Board and Auditor)
- Two times with the Congregation:
- July 12 (Congregational Meeting)
- September 27 (Congregational Meeting)

Minutes of the Trustees meetings have been submitted to the Church Office.

**Summary of Trustees Actions and Discussions** - During 2020 four topics dominated Trustees deliberations and actions.

**1. *Negative effects of COVID-19 and other disruptions upon the Church budget. Worship at St. Paul's received two big disruptions in 2020. The first was a series of winter storms in January which led to cancellation of services on three consecutive Sundays. These cancellations reduced offerings and put church finances in a deficit.***

The second disruption was the widespread shutdown of society from COVID-19. Starting in mid-March the New Brunswick government imposed a series of restrictions on public gatherings including church services. Depending upon the number of COVID cases the restrictions ranged from complete closure of churches to partial opening with social distancing. The use of social media allowed parishioners to attend services virtually but, because of the restrictions, in-person church attendance dropped significantly - even when permitted. Again, the drop in attendance resulted in a reduction in offerings.

However, the news was not all bad, as there was some relief provided to salary expenses thanks to government wage supplement programs.

The double-whammy of storms and COVID put church finances under stress. To ease pressure on the Board budget **the Trustees approved payment for several repairs from capital funds, not from revenues.**

2. *Complicated financial reporting. As noted by our Auditor in the 2019 financial report, St. Paul's finances are complicated and quite confusing to non-accountants. There is a series of loans between various accounts making it difficult to determine the size and health of our income statement and balance sheet. The Auditor recommended that St. Paul's try to **simplify the accounts for easier understanding and greater transparency. The Trustees support this recommendation.***

3. *Expanding Trustees' responsibilities to include investment management. During the year the St. Paul's Board asked the Trustees to take over responsibility for financial investments from the Board's disbanded Finance Committee. The Trustees agreed and created an **Investment Subcommittee chaired by Alanna Palmer with Bill Paterson and Andrew Steeves as members.** The Subcommittee is currently working with representatives of BMO Nesbitt-Burns.*

4. *Ensuring the longevity of the St. Paul's Sanctuary and Hall. At present our church is run well and with love. The Trustees congratulate the Church Board and staff on their stewardship of St. Paul's. We offer special thanks to members – current and past – of our Property Committee for exceptional contributions.*

However, as owners of a heritage structure, we face major expenditures over the medium and long term. For example, the repair and rehabilitation of the York Street façade of the sanctuary has been estimated at well over \$500,000. This work will likely be required within the next 20 years.

Currently we do not have the financial assets to pay for this or any other big project. This situation is not sustainable.

To achieve our vision, Trustees are convinced that St. Paul's needs to create a dedicated reserve/sinking fund of several hundred thousand dollars to pay for repairs and renovations. It is to this end that the Trustees over the last several years have investigated the creation of a legal entity which we refer to as the 'St. Paul's Foundation' to serve as a means of raising, increasing and administering the segregated funds.

We have reviewed our plan and draft by-laws with the St. Paul's Board and have met with several committees and groups within St. Paul's to describe the proposal and answer questions. Among these groups were the UCW, the Pantry, the Choir and the Property Committee plus several individuals. As well we have discussed options with the United Church of Canada Foundation.

At the July 12 Congregational meeting the following motions were passed:

**A. To approve in principle the creation of an entity dedicated to fundraising and managing a pool of segregated funds for the maintenance, repair and renovation of the St. Paul's sanctuary and hall and allocating these assets for these capital works on a sustainable basis ("St. Paul's Foundation").**

**B. To ask the Trustees to investigate options for the entity and to report back to the congregation by the end of the 2020 calendar year with a recommended form of organization and operation for congregational review and approval.**

Following congregational approval, the Trustees have investigated options for the "St. Paul's Foundation" and are prepared to introduce motions of acceptance and implementation of this entity at the 2021 Annual General Meeting scheduled for March 28.

- Andrew Steeves, Acting Chair

- Alanna Palmer, Secretary and Chair of Investment Subcommittee

## Heritage and Resources - 2020

In 2020, Heritage and Resources continued to be mainly a committee of one. This, along with the challenges of the pandemic, limited the amount of work that could be accomplished. Nevertheless, in 2020 the committee:

- Continued to work with Board to implement the “Four Pillars” Financial Sustainability Plan. Heritage and Resources is responsible for the “Core funding” pillar.
- Working with Rev. Richard, prepared and sent three Heritage and Resources letters (April, Anniversary Sunday, Advent/Christmas) to the congregation. These:

Thanked people for their continued gifts of time, talent and treasure

Specifically acknowledged the many ways in which people helped us transition to, and continue the work of the church in, a COVID world (e.g. virtual services, cleaning, keeping the Pantry and Brown Bag programs going, running the office, caring for the building, social media, etc.)

Reminded people of the many ways to give besides in-person offerings

Highlighted the tax benefits of charitable giving

- Promoted St. Paul’s and its ministries through social media channels (mainly Facebook and Instagram). This included:
  - daily posts during Advent and Lent
  - posts marking important dates in the Church calendar
  - posts highlighting special events/notices (e.g. FundScrip, concerts)
  - posts highlighting specific needs (e.g. pantry, brown bag)
- Started practice of sending thank you cards acknowledging specific gifts of time, talent, and treasure. This was also suspended because of the pandemic, but should be restarted.
- Continued to encourage people to join PAR and make use of other electronic means of giving (e.g. e-transfer, CanadaHelps)
- Continued to look for ways to engage the congregation in stewardship activities
- Before the pandemic happened, I planned to have us again participate in the United Church’s “Called to Be the Church” program. I would like us to participate in this in 2021.
- Thank you to those who lent their support to Heritage and Resources activities this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Petryshen

## Worship Committee - 2020

**Members**  
Rev. Michelle Johnson-Armstrong  
Rev. Richard Bowley  
Roger Miller, Chair  
Lynne Naugler, Secretary  
Tammy Couglan  
Ann Raper  
Florence Bartlett

The goals of the Worship Committee are:

1. To support the spiritual family of St. Paul's United Church in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, celebrating the Holy Spirit among us, and sharing the love of God in services of worship.
2. To create a worshipful atmosphere and plan for Sunday services, special worship services, music, and other events of the congregation.

Duties of the Worship Committee are as follows:

- Obtain greeters, ushers, scripture readers, bell ringer and Supply Ministers (as needed)
- Decorating the sanctuary for special occasions (i.e. Easter, Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, and Christmas) under the direction of Doug Warman and other members of the congregation
- Responsible for Coffee Hour Schedule.
- Prepare for Communion Services
- Purchase cakes for special occasions (Welcome Back Sunday, Pentecost, Anniversary)
- Responsible for getting people for the sound system for special occasions
- Prepare the Advent wreath and candles for the Advent services
- Supply small candles and paper holders for Christmas Eve services
- Ensure a new Christ Candle is provided for the Christmas Eve service
- Set up seven candles in the Sanctuary to mark Lent in preparation for Easter
- Purchase/order palms fronds for Palm Sunday
- Prepare for Good Friday service, placing the Cross draped in a shroud

Note: Some of these duties were not needed due to COVID restrictions on worshipping

The past year presented quite a few challenges, as our worship services had to change. The Worship Committee took over the task of obtaining supply ministers and Emergency Pastoral Care. With lots of help we were able to achieve this goal. Many thanks to Rev. Richard for all his work preparing for this. Also a big thanks to all those who have taken over the duty of Facilitators. The cooperation of Wilmot United has also helped a lot.

There are so many people to thank, and if I miss anyone, please believe you are appreciated. Thank you to Rev. Michelle and Rev. Richard for their great job and great attitude. Richard, you will be missed more than you know.

Thanks to Colleen Hanna-Miller for her years of awesome work and dedication on the Committee, and to Florence Bartlett.

And Eric, what can I say? You do an awesome job and are such a pleasure to work with.

## Worship Committee - 2020 (continued)

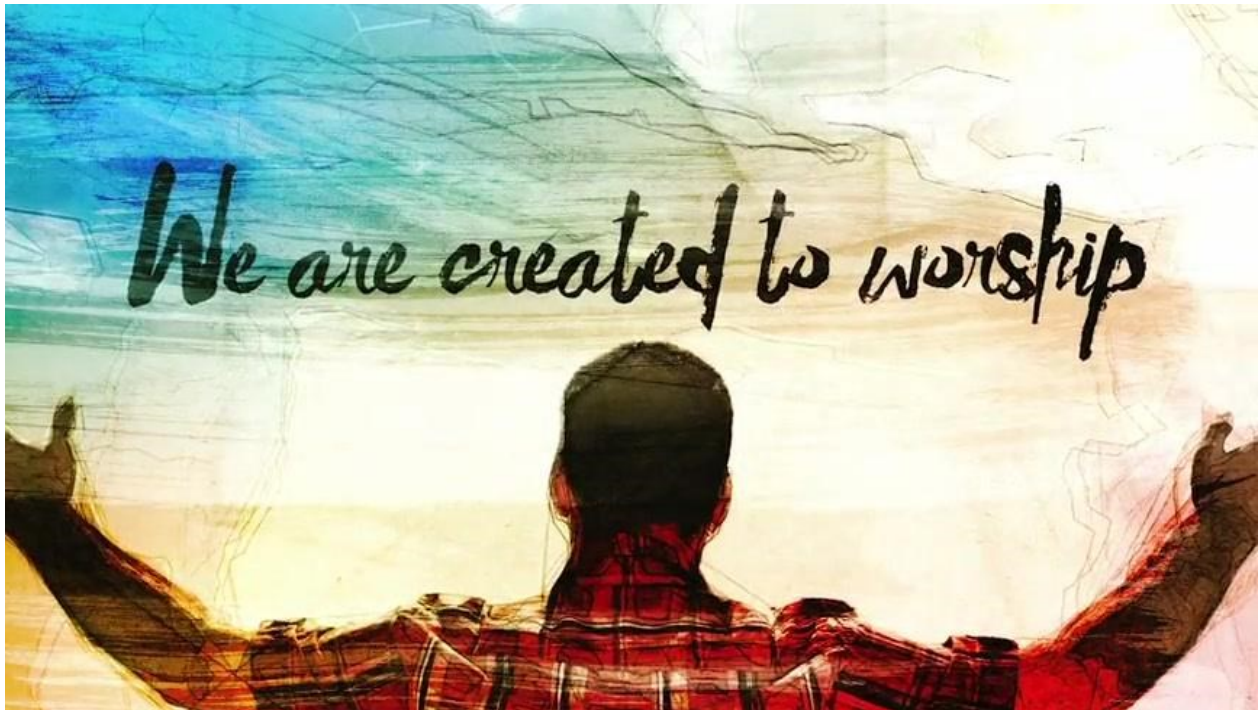
Thanks also to all those who volunteer to greet and read the scripture especially the small group of dedicated members of our church family who continue to volunteer (greet, screen, usher) during COVID protocols.

Special thanks to Douglas Warman and his helpers for the fantastic job they do decorating our church on numerous occasions throughout the year.

A big thank you to the Board for its guidance and help. You have done an awesome job keeping us safe from COVID-19. And last, but not least, Alexis Ervin and Sharon Pond for their wonderful gift of music.

The Worship Committee is very pleased to welcome our three new members: Tammy Landry, Chris Grant and Janis Violette

Respectfully submitted,  
Roger Miller, Chair



## Christian Education Committee – 2020

**Members:** Brad Green, Mary Staples, Cathy Davis, Natalie Bowley (secretary), Rev. Michelle Armstrong, Rev. Richard Bowley

The role of the Christian Education Committee is the coordination of the Sunday School curriculum and events, the engagement of the youth of the church through faith-focused gatherings and the exploration of new opportunities to learn and grow in faith as a conversation through adult programs.

### Sunday School

In the Fall, a COVID-19 operational plan for the safe return to in-person Sunday School classes was prepared and two weeks of Sunday School classes were held. However, following a recommendation by the region, all in-person youth activities were suspended in light of the pandemic.

The curriculum purchased for the 2020-2021 Sunday School year was *The Whole People of God*. As this curriculum comes with a one-year licence for its use, these materials are ready and available to be used if or when it is safe for in-person youth activities to resume in 2021.

During the suspension of in-person activities due to the pandemic, some online faith resources were made available to youth and young families. Digital greeting cards were also sent to the Sunday School children by Cathy Davis on behalf of St. Paul's United Church at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

In response to COVID and stay-home orders, Rev. Michelle populated the website with many growth opportunities for people of all ages. A weekly Sunday School at home page was created, using the narrative lectionary children's activity bulletin that provided activities paralleling the scripture used in the online service. There was also a weekly link to a Sunday school at home video and activities for families to use at home. Rev. Michelle had created a couple of story time videos with reflections for children which included reading the Easter story and opening Resurrection Eggs with Reid. In an attempt to bring families together Rev. Michelle hosted a Burrito Party online for Palm Sunday, providing a prayer, donkey-related activities, and songs. Also for Palm Sunday Rev. Michelle created a make-your-own palms video demonstrating several ways that people could make their own palms at home.

Emails were sent to youth at the beginning of the pandemic, with online learning and engagement opportunities but there was a lack of response. However, we promoted digital Rendezvous (a once every three-year gathering of youth from across Canada that was moved online because of the pandemic). Information on youth-related links for Bible studies and support were placed on the Sunday school at home page. With the prospect of a return to regular programming under COVID protocols the website was returned to a more normal setting. This included the removal of several added pages and paring down content. When Sunday school was put on hold again, Rev. Richard invested in Bloom curriculum which was designed for staying at home during the Fall. These were posted online weekly.

Between March and June Rev. Richard hosted morning and evening prayers once a week, which was live on Zoom and then posted on Facebook for engagement for those who couldn't attend. Parent Facebook groups were created for parents of young children and for parents of Teens to help people connect and offer support during the pandemic and beyond. We also continued to promote the Parent Cue resources which provide support to be intentional about the time we have with our children and has many supports and articles for supporting our children that brings together research on development with our faith.



## **Adult programs**

For adults Rev. Michelle hosted a weekly bible study over Zoom using the *God's Story, Our Story* insert which looked at the Bible verse for the coming week. We regularly had three participants. In addition to this, a page was added to the website called *All Ages Faith Development* with development opportunities for all ages including information on spiritual gifts, prayer and meditation techniques, and free resources from Illustrated Ministries which provided spiritual colouring pages and devotional materials.

## **Programs and events**

Anniversary Sunday, November 1, also marked another celebration at St. Paul's as members of the Youth Group from the 1980s came together to commemorate 40 years since the group's creation in 1980. During the time the group was active at St. Paul's, over 60 young people participated as members or in leadership roles, at least six of whom went on to become ordained ministers. Fifteen were able to participate in person, and more than 20 joined in virtually. The reunion included a Sunday morning breakfast in Fraser Memorial Hall, then providing leadership for the worship service, and finally a lunch gathering at Oakland Farm Lodge in New Maryland which included an online component. One of the group's initial leaders, Rev. Ivan Gregan of Port Wallis United Church in Dartmouth, was the anniversary speaker.

Respectfully submitted,  
Natalie Bowley



## **Music Report - 2020**

2020 has been a tough year for everyone. We said goodbye to Alexis as she takes a much deserved retirement after many years of outstanding leadership to the choirs and as organist. She was wonderful to work with and I always enjoyed our piano/organ duets. I hope we will continue to do these in the future. Choirs and singing have been on hold during the pandemic. Hopefully that will change soon and we can resume our music program. I want to thank Alexis Ervin, Ralph Stephenson, Jane Blakely and Debbie Allison for providing recorded music and Muriel Faulkenstein and Doug Warman for the live music during services. In an attempt to keep some normalcy in our music program, we had recitals in the Fall and at Christmas. Thanks to Jane Blakely and Alexis Ervin for joining me at these events.

Dr. Sharon Pond  
Director of Music



## Property Committee - 2020

The Property Committee's mandate is to maintain, upgrade and protect the Church's physical plant and assets: Examples are a) property maintenance b) property upgrades c) boiler and ground repairs d) security e) organ f) rental properties.

Members are Walter Bidlake, John Gaskin, Derrick Grant, Kyle Mathers, Harold Raper, Patty Trail (Co-Chair) and Gregory Morton (Co-Chair). Harold retired from the committee at year-end after many years of devoted service. Thank you, Harold, for your diligent work; you will be missed.

We are an active hands-on committee with several very skilled members whose input saves the Church significant expenses by completing work and projects in house. Our repair and maintenance budget for 2020 was \$12,000 and our boiler budget was \$6,500 both of which were respected.

The Church currently generates income by renting the following rooms:

- 1) Downstairs gym, annual average revenue \$1,300
- 2) A room off the downstairs gym, \$9,600 annually

As a benevolent gesture, we provide:

- 1) a downstairs room free of charge to the AA program
- 2) a room to the GED program (for older students who do not have a high school degree)

We have three other rooms for rent on the second floor of the Hall as we lost tenants this past year due mainly to the downturn caused by the COVID pandemic. The rooms are currently advertised for rent and we are trying to find new occupants.

### **Work Completed in 2020**

- 1) The Spring and Fall outdoor cleanups were done; these are time-consuming projects
- 2) A new window was installed in the Hall kitchen
- 3) The exterior basement windows were caulked and repaired because of leaks
- 4) The outside window frames on the east side of the Hall were repaired and painted
- 5) A leak in the Sanctuary was repaired.
- 6) The annual test of the emergency light batteries was completed
- 7) The walls in a room on the 2nd floor of the Church Hall (near the elevator) were repaired and painted
- 8) We installed plastic coverings on certain Hall windows in preparation for winter
- 9) We took the weather rugs used in the Hall and Church entrances to the car wash for cleaning
- 10) A section of the Church front steps was in poor condition and was repaired prior to freeze up. We will reduce the use of salt in that area to reduce deterioration of the concrete.
- 11) There are ongoing leaks in the Church bell tower, cracks and crumbling in the masonry. Also cracks in the wall by the doorway to the balcony on the York Street side. Frank Goddard has been managing this ongoing issue.
- 12) Several issues with the heating system were addressed in the fall of 2020 including the replacement of a circulator pump and switch as well as addressing a leak in one of the radiators in the Narthex.
- 13) Repairs were done to the stairs by the Church office to reduce the breakdown of the vinyl treads

14) During a windstorm on December 26/27, three sheets of copper metal were blown off the York St side of the steeple, landing on the sidewalk below and a fourth sheet was left dangling. On December 26/27, a bucket and crew were hired to remove a dangling metal sheet and inspect the roof for other damage. The Property Committee will watch for interior leakage in the tower hoping to wait until spring /summer for repair. Trustees, the Board and Property Committee will be engaged in discussions to repair the steeple.

15) The repair of the automatic door opener to the Narthex was completed with instruction to the ongoing maintenance of the system.

### **Rental Properties**

16) A window was repaired in one of the rental properties

17) A problem with a refrigerator in one of the rental properties was dealt with

18) We replaced the washer/dryer unit in one of the rental properties

19) The back ramp to one of the rental properties was repaired after being damaged by a vehicle

20) One of the apartments was repaired and painted in preparation for a new tenant

21) Three rotted steps and post lids were replaced on the Turner house fire escape

22) A meeting was held with Trustees to discuss the roofs of the rental properties and after an inspection, everything seems in order, but a more detailed review will be done in the Spring

We enjoy a positive working relationship with the office Manager Eric Hotte.

We encourage Church members to inform us of any items that require attention.

Patty Trail, Co-chair and Greg Morton, Co-chair

## **UCW - 2020**

The United Church Women of St. Paul's United Church managed to have two official meetings in 2020 - February 24 and November 6, along with small gatherings in the kitchen, emails, 'phone calls.

Needless to say, our usual yearly events did not happen. We did participate in the World Day of Prayer Service on March 8 at Wilmot. The service was prepared by the women of Zimbabwe with the theme "Rise! Take Up Your Mat and Walk!" Then COVID shut everything down on Friday, March 13!

We managed to make two batches of mincemeat and sold it in bottles, as well as some pies and tarts. Donna Chauvin had a "Sale in the Garage" on October 31 at her home, with COVID protocols in place. The sale included knitting, sewing, crafts, mincemeat, jams and jellies.

We had a meeting after Church on Sunday November 6 to discuss our financial contributions for the year. Financial gifts were given to the office staff: Eric, Tammy and Ron . . . Thanks for all you do! Donations were given to the Salvation Army, Red Cross, Transition House. A parting gift was given to Rev. Richard Bowley. The amount of \$5000 was given to the Church general fund.

We provided two funeral receptions in early January: Janet Stevenson, Walter Learning. Due to COVID there were no other funeral services or receptions this year, but we remember departed members of our Church family:

Dorothy G. Irving April 30, 1926 - May 23, 2020

Roland Otto Krause December 28, 1946 - May 7, 2020

Robert G. McCullough September 22, 1928 - May 14, 2020

James (Jimmy) Archibald Smith December 29, 1928 - July 5, 2020

I would like to thank all the UCW members who have contributed their time, talent, and finances during this difficult year. Let's stay connected with our 'sisters' and move on to a better time. Always a pleasure to serve....

Respectfully submitted by Donna Chauvin

**St. Paul's UCW**  
**January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020**

**Receipts**

Envelope Donations	\$ 754.84	
Catering	\$ 4000.00	
Mincemeat	\$ 830.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$5584.84</b>

**Disbursements**

Catering	\$ 301.70	
Kitchen (Dishwasher Repair)	\$ 319.94	
Donations	\$ 5750.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$6371.64</b>

Bank Balance January 1, 2020	\$3457.47	
Bank Balance December 31, 2020	\$2770.67	
Uncashed Cheques #771	\$100	
	Bank Balance	<b>\$2670.67</b>

Respectfully submitted by,

Chris Grant, Treasurer

## The Pantry - 2020



**Mission Statement:** To assist needy families in our community by providing food and household items to augment services they receive elsewhere.

This has been a year like no other! Everything was going along as usual until COVID-19 happened. The church was closed. No one was allowed in. Eric, our church manager, and Ron, the custodian, answered the York Street door when clients arrived for food. Eric asked what they needed and told them they would have to wait outside. Ron brought up their groceries and handed them to the client. This continued all summer.

In September I called all the volunteers who had previously helped out in the Pantry. Only six, including two leaders, wanted to come to help. Since then three of us worked each Wednesday morning. One to answer the door and ask the necessary questions re: COVID, one to pack items into bags and one to record the points and fill out the sheets for contact tracing. Clients were allowed to come into the Pantry, one at a time, but not allowed to touch anything. They were given their bags of items which they could put in their own bags or backpacks and leave. The next client could then go through the same process. This continued through December.

At the end of the year we were serving 18 single women, 26 single men, 4 couples, 9 single-parent families, 14 two-parent families. These families included 50 children.

Our shelves have been well stocked, thanks to generous members of our congregation who donated food items or monetary contributions. Our sincere thanks for their kindness. Their contributions are much appreciated by our clients.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois Walker, Chair, The Pantry



## “Brown Bag” Lunch Program

This being the year of the pandemic, requests for bag lunches bags were down somewhat; 260 bags were made up and used in 2020. Only 20-30 bags were used each month. (In 2019, we used 650 bags; in 2018, 574.) Thank you to all who support this program.

Respectively submitted,  
Maude McNamara

*And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ Matthew 25: 40*

## 7th Fredericton Scouting Group - 2020

The 7th Fredericton Scouting Group, sponsored by St. Paul's United, has had a good year, despite the challenges of Scouting in a pandemic. We comprise three program sections: Beavers (ages 5 to 7); Cubs (ages 8 to 10); Scout Troop (ages 11 to 14). We are continuing our partnership with 3rd Fredericton Scout Group, (based at Christ Church Parish Church (CCPC)). Our Winter term (January and February) featured our usual winter activities (Christmas tree pick up fundraiser; pancake supper at CCPC; Beaver, Cub and Scout Troop winter camp at Yoho; attended Church as a group at both St Pauls and CCPC in February). Due to COVID, we had to cancel all in person meetings in March; however the Scout troop (ages 11-14) met online via Zoom until September.

In-person meetings resumed (under Yellow Phase) in September, with as many activities outside as possible. Many of our youth have dropped all other extra-curricular activities to reduce risk and contacts, but, due to the heavy emphasis on outdoor activities, their parents are happy for them to rejoin Scouting this year. From September onwards, all sections met outside – activities included: Hiking at Odell, the Botanic Garden; the extinct volcano at Currie Mountain, Mactaquac, Kings Landing, Festival of Lights at Pine Grove Nursing Home, urban orienteering. All sections participated in our own Remembrance Day activities, and the CCPC Fall Cleanup.

Like every other organization, we operate under strict COVID guidelines (social distancing, masks, screening, strict cap on participant numbers). We have (temporarily) reduced our in-person meeting cadence (Cubs, Beavers), so that they alternate on a bi-weekly basis. We are permitted to have indoor meetings (in Yellow), but online only in Orange or above.

We continue to have a great group of section Scouters who share their time, skills and talents, and personal resources to offer a good Scouting program to youth, even under our current constraints. This year was a year full of challenges, for Scouting and life in general. We are very proud of our Scouters, who are doing their utmost under challenging conditions to give our youth at least one point of contact outside of family and school. We do still have room in our sections for additional youth, and we would also welcome more volunteers to help as section Scouters (helping with youth) or as members of the Group Committee which oversees the administrative items.

We ended last year with a hope of reinvigorating our relationship with St. Paul's. Our Beavers and Cubs were hoping to schedule at least some of their weekly meetings to take place at St Paul's. However, with the shutdown of in-person meetings, this idea had to be deferred. For the coming fall term (September 2021), we would like to again revisit that idea of perhaps alternating our meeting space between St Paul's and CCPC. If there are any questions, I would be happy to provide more information. I would welcome the chance to talk to the Board or congregation about our group and the amazing volunteers and youth who make up our group.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of 7th Fredericton,  
Catherine O'Connell-Cooper, Group Commissioner, 3rd and 7th Fredericton



## **Refugee Family - 2020**

The Interchurch Refugee Committee (St. Paul's, Wilmot and Forest Hill United Churches) has completed its commitments and disbanded. The last family supported was the Syrian ALRihi family.

Many of you are familiar with the ALRihi family, Ammar, Fatima and two children who arrived in 2017. Fatima had a baby girl, Layal, in 2019 so the family now includes three children. They are doing well. Ammar wants to bring his brother and family, currently in a refugee camp in Lebanon, to Fredericton and asked for administrative, not financial, help.

The brother's name is Abdullah Omar AL Rae (ALRahi), his wife is Huda ALDarwhish and they have two children. They are UNHCR approved. The family has the funds to support them coming to Canada. The Goddards have committed to helping them if there is a change in the family's situation. The family required support from a documentation perspective, and a bank account to facilitate the application process.

Frank and Anna completed the documentation (Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada) and submitted the application to the United Church of Canada, Toronto offices. The application lists the United Church of Canada as the Sponsorship Agreement Holders, St. Paul's United Church as the Constituent Group and Ammar ALRahi as the co-sponsor. The family is on the 2021 waitlist.

## **Adult Education (GED Classes)**

Central Valley Adult Learning Association is a small non-profit organization funded by the Government of New Brunswick's Post Secondary Education, Training and Labour Department. And for another year, St. Paul's United Church has opened its doors to our Adult Learning Program. My learners and I are so grateful for their kindness and the classroom they allow us to use.

2020 was a year like no other in all of our lives. From the time we went into lockdown in March until we returned in August, it was no surprise to me how supportive St. Paul's United Church has been during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Our students have been welcomed back with open arms so they can continue with their goals of completing their GED. Eric greets us all each day and my students often share how welcomed they feel and grateful that he is always there to buzz them in when its chilly or they were out for a morning break.

I hope that 2021 allows us all to return to some more normalcy in our lives and I think every day that while the church seems so quiet without its regular activities taking place, I am so thankful for the opportunity to call this church my workplace and represent our organization here.

Megan Munden  
Academic Teacher - Fredericton Youth Adult Learning Program  
Central Valley Adult Learning Association  
Phone: (506) 454-2961  
Main Office: (506) 357-7892  
Email: fredericton@cvala.ca  
Website: www.cvala.ca

Please have this report ready for the  
Annual Meeting on Zoom  
(No in-person meeting)

## St. Paul's Annual Meeting

Time: Mar 28, 2021 01:00

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86075579033>

Meeting ID: 860 7557 9033

Passcode: 333224

If you want to call in via  
a landline or cellphone, this is also possible. all you have to do is call: 1(647)  
558-0588 and use the meeting code  
860 7557 9033 followed by the  
password 333224. Please note that long-  
distance charges may apply. Please check  
with your provider to see if you  
will be affected.

Find your local number: [https://  
us02web.zoom.us/j/kmV7wX8NT](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kmV7wX8NT)