



# 2020 Annual Report

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**IN MEMORIAM**

***In life,  
In death,  
In life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.***

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These are the names of those individuals who passed away in 2019 and who were included in St. Paul's Church membership records at the time of their passing.

We celebrate and give thanks for their lives and for the lasting impact they have had upon us.

We trust them to God's eternal care.

*Iris Isabelle Anne Graydon  
Wm. James Warring  
Dorothy Fay Rose  
John "Jack" Mitchell Graydon  
Donald Britman Hughes  
John Alexander Freeman  
Howard J. Milthorpe  
Doris Chappelle  
Clara Aldene (Dene) Malott  
Bette Lynne McNaught  
Douglas Robert MacDonald  
John Geoffrey Copland  
Jean Elizabeth Beasley Hayhow  
Julia Beverley Rice  
Meizel Arleen MacDonald  
John (Jack) Brown*

**COUNCIL & TEAM MEMBERSHIP**

**COUNCIL EXECUTIVE\***

\*Denotes teams who are formally *represented on Council*

Judy DeMone - Chair  
Kent Palmer - Vice Chair  
Candace Allen - Secretary  
Darren Pinette - Finance Chair  
..*Jeff Kargus*

**Affirming Team\***

Thea Sheridan-Jonah  
(Co-Chair)  
Judy DeMone (Co-Chair)  
Kate Labelle  
Chris Taehyung Lee  
Kristina Kriston  
..*Gary Davis*

**Board of Trustees\***

Kent Palmer (Chair)  
Brad Neufeld  
Frank O'Byrne  
Jennifer Pham-MacMillan  
Bev Phillips

**Capital Projects Team\***

Harold DeVenne (Chair)  
Darren Pinette (Finance)  
Jason Morin  
David Crown  
..*Sue MacDonald*

**Communications Team\***

Candace Allen (Chair)  
Jessie Fan  
Anthony Lucic  
Margaret White  
Greg Carson  
..*Jeff Kargus*  
..*Elizabeth Phillips*

**Nurturing Care Team\***

Carilyn McNaught (Chair)  
Judy DeVenne  
B.J. Young  
Jackie O'Byrne

**Property Team\***

Vacant (Chair)  
Gary Collins  
Tom Allen  
Ron Brown  
Doug Gillham  
Jason Morin  
Bryan MacMillan  
Michele Swanson-Mousley  
..*Sue MacDonald*

**Count Team**

Ron Shermet (Lead)  
Beth Boyce  
Margaret White  
Tom Allen  
Wendy Walker  
Kathy Morin  
Jay Morin  
Roy McEwen  
Bert Fonseca  
Diane Wolder  
Julie Thomson  
Elizabeth Phillips  
Helga de Lint  
Marg Stanley

**Stewardship Team\***

Michele Swanson-Mousley  
(Chair)  
Jeff Laforet  
Ron Shermet  
Rhiannon Filip  
Matt Sheridan-Jonah  
Judy DeMone  
Jessie Fan

**Ministry & Personnel\***

Vacant (Chair)  
Pat Freedman  
Sharon Wiese  
Candace Allen  
Pat Mason  
Darlene Cox  
..*Kent Palmer*

**Mission Team\***

Harold DeVenne (Chair)  
Jeff Kargus  
Allyson Mitchell-Neufeld  
Jennifer Pham-MacMillan  
..*John Perry*

**Finance Team\***

Darren Pinette (Chair)  
Ron Shermet  
Grace Jeong – Treasurer  
..*David Fan*

**Oakville Ready Team**

Harold DeVenne (Chair)

**Community & Faith**

**Formation\***

Vacant (Chair)

Grace Jeong

Anna Sheridan-Jonah

Catherine Arcand-Pinette

Rhiannon Filip

Tracy Mitchell

**Worship Team\***

Kristina Kriston (Chair)

Carol Anne Hunt

Fay Copland

Rachel Couban

Chris Taehyung Lee

Thea Sheridan-Jonah

**Mental Health & Wellness**

Harold DeVenne (Chair)

Frank O'Byrne

Carilyn McNaught

Rob Phillips

Jay Smith

Shirley-Anne Cooper-Maimot

... *John Perry, Wendy Walker*

**Outreach Team\***

Kate Labelle (Chair)

Thea Sheridan-Jonah

**Refugee Sponsorship Team**

Pat Mason (Chair)

Selina Bajorek

Matt Sheridan-Jonah

Bev Phillips

Hana Manssor

Alice Deslauriers-Bunn

**Library Team**

VACANT (Lead)

Irene Carson

Marion Cumming

Ruth Holloway

Cynthia Steneveld

Margaret White

Sharon Wiese

Janis Fournier

Michele Swanson-Mousley

**Fellowship Team**

Rob Phillips

- Coffee Co-Ordinator

**UCW Leadership**

Pat Mason (Treasurer)

Helga de Lint

(Communication)

Terry Farris (Secretary)

Joan Ford (Funeral Outreach)

Velma Ivey (Funeral Outreach)

Irene Murray (Membership)

Cynthia Steneveld (Unit

Leader)

Carilyn McNaught (Unit

Leader & Council Rep)

Sharon Wiese (Unit Leader)

Catherine Arcand-Pinette

(Unit Leader)

**Memorial Team**

Judy DeMone

Kristina Kriston

Darren Pinette

C&FF Representative

**Horseshoe Falls Region\***

Harold DeVenne

Thea Sheridan-Jonah

..*Frank O'Byrne*

**NOTES:**

- Team members known to have stepped down in 2019 are shown in *italics*. We thank them for their time, energy, leadership and support.
- We gratefully acknowledge both ***Deborah Laforet*** and ***Carolyn Smith*** for their direct involvement with, and support of, many of these teams.
- We recognize and thank any teams or team members who are not listed or may have been missed above for their time, energy and dedication in supporting the ongoing work of St. Paul's

**DEBORAH LAFORET – Lead Minister, *St. Paul's United Church***

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I remember life in January of 2020. I remember going to the gym about three times a week. I remember planning for a great national youth conference called Rendezvous that would occur in August. I remember planning a pancake supper, an annual meeting, and a spectacular P.I.E. Day event, that we had moved a week earlier to March 8th.

Carolyn and I had met a few times and we had such plans for the coming year. But, of course, all those plans fell apart on Friday, March 13, 2020, when the executive of Council decided to shut down the church building. Instead, our focus turned to how we would offer youth group that evening and how we would offer worship the following Sunday. (You can watch the service on [YouTube](#) if you want a refresher on how we did and how much we've grown.)

Amidst the lockdown and the closure of the church, we still did ministry and it has been an eventful year.

- Most of Lent, and all of Holy Week and Easter were celebrated online, as we slowly learned how to livestream worship to Facebook and offer the recording on YouTube.
- We said goodbye to Ross, as he completed his ministry with St. Paul's and retired as a church musician. We said goodbye in a variety of ways; people sent cards, we honored his ministry during worship, and invited people to drive by the church and say goodbye from their vehicles.
- We welcomed Catherine Arcand-Pinette to our staff team. Although she helped us through the first few months of the pandemic, she was officially hired June 1st.
- We hosted two weeks of VBS through Zoom and YouTube videos.
- Throughout the pandemic, we have learned how to stay connected through our phone tree. Thanks to all those who have been calling and connecting!
- We lost loved ones and, while some celebrations of life were postponed, others continued at the church or at a funeral home with minimal attendance, but appreciated by many who watched the livestream.
- On October 18th, 90 of us gathered on Zoom and voted to become an Affirming Ministry, and then on November 22nd, celebrated that status during worship as the 235th Affirming Ministry, with many of our community friends and guest speaker, Pam Rocker.
- You'll hear from our Children's Programming Coordinator that our attendance has increased as kits were put together for at-home Sunday School, and gatherings over Zoom on Sunday mornings.

- Jeff & Jay searched all over for Jeff Kargus and then travelled to community service agencies in Oakville.
- I wrote a pageant that set the Christmas story within a pandemic. The pageant was shared and performed all over Canada and the children of St. Paul's Sunday School eagerly participated and gave a wonderful performance.
- Christmas was eventful with Pubs & Pews hosting "A Christmas Tale," Catherine hosted Carols by Request, our Longest Night service was hosted on Zoom and live-streamed to Facebook, and we celebrated two Christmas Eve services, with youth offering a special candlelight "Silent Night" at both.
- As St. Paul's lost much of its income due to a decrease of Sunday offerings and a loss of rental income, many continued to share generously by mail, through our website, and through e-transfers. We came through 2020 with a deficit, but it was the deficit we had predicted at the beginning of the year, and this is all thanks to wage support from the government and the generosity of our members.
- I'm sure I could list much more, but as you can see, we had to shut our doors, but our hearts and ministry remained wide open. 2020 proved to us like never before that the church is not about the building; it's about the people.

As we read in our bible in the Hebrew book of Proverbs (3:5-6):

*Trust Yahweh with all your heart, and don't rely on your own understanding.  
acknowledge God in everything you do, and God will direct your paths.*

This was a year we couldn't rely on our own understanding as everything seemed to shift under our feet and the world seem chaotic and unstable. This was the year to trust Yahweh, to acknowledge the divine presence in all we do, and to allow the Spirit to direct our paths. 2021 could be very similar.

I miss all of you. I really miss shaking hands and gathering over meals and in meetings and discussion groups. I miss spending time with the children and youth during camps and youth retreats. I miss having coffee at El Spero's and gathering together to celebrate the loss of someone we love. I rejoice though that we have not lost our connections, that we can still pray together and learn together, and that we can still be the body of Christ to our community and one another. Thanks be to God.



**CAROLYN SMITH – Minister of Pastoral Care, *St. Paul's United Church***

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I've been known to squirrel away key newspapers from important dates, like when the Blue Jays won their B2B world series, and the year 2000. Let's make this 2020 St. Paul's Annual Report one for all our time capsules.

How grateful I am for having 6 months with you in person before March of 2021. As upside-down as it has been, the highlights this year aren't far out of the ordinary, when it comes down to what matters, and that is soothing.

A couple of months offered familiar congregational territory - our youth group skating party and bake sale, the pancakes, and Pie Day. Movie-themed sermons. And the UCW event, and El Spero's breakfasts - I was getting used to those! All our interactions were helpful as I led my first funerals, supporting families and coming to know the depth of friendships and history together.

And then March.... suddenly, Deborah and I scrambled to "pivot," retraining as electronic DJ/Video producers. We have come a loonngg way and I'm excited with the results. I'll confess, it's been fun in some ways. And I love our team - Jeanne, Catherine, Tracy; and Judy, Grace and Candy, and Council who have been a part of keeping nimble, creative and optimistic. And yes, Jeff and Jay too. Much love!

The other big shift was the phone tree and many telephone calls, that have become "the tie that binds." I give all honour to Carilyn McNaught and Nurturing Care Team, and our phone callers (soup makers, cookie bakers, card writers, etc.) in gathering everyone's names. We made every (herculean) effort to keep the comforting St. Paul's community very present to all our people, whether online or not.

I feel sure that I've learned more and laughed more and cried more over the phone, than we might have guessed. So much for disconnection. Thanks to all who have steered me to folks who weren't on my radar, or shared news that I needed to know. It has been invaluable at the times of loss as we have said goodbye to several friends this year.

I love our resilient community - our Affirm vote, Pubs & Pews, and Women's zoom, Catherine's choirs, Tracy's Sunday school, justice learning, Kerr St support, Youth group, Rendezvous, Book Club, music events and Longest Night. Weddings and even funerals have shown joy and love, and loving sorrow, and hope for our future together, and they sustained us in real ways while we wait for better times.

Despite all that 2020 threw at us, in all the ways that matter, we are still St. Paul's.

**CATHERINE ARCAND-PINETTE, MMus– Director of Music, *St. Paul's United Church***

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2020 was a year full of changes and new endeavours for the music of St. Paul's. The year began normally enough with our Adult Choir sharing music every Sunday morning with Ross at the helm. When COVID hit in mid-March and the church was forced to move online, I was asked to take over to create digital music for online services until we were able to meet again in person. And so, here we are! Still meeting online, but, I believe, challenging ourselves to create and provide new digital musical content each week while encouraging the involvement of as many people as possible.

Before the beginning of COVID, our long time musical director Ross Stretton had decided to retire, and we sadly said goodbye to him in June 2020. He will be greatly missed. I was excited to be selected as his replacement and looked forward to finding new ways to bring music into the St. Paul's community as the pandemic continued.

I started off recording myself playing hymns and solos in my basement. Quickly, I realized that I was missing the harmony from our choir in the hymns and wanted to create better sounding content, so I began to learn how to do multi-track recording, first on the iPad and ultimately on my laptop. With this kind of layered recording, I could now include other musicians as well. Chris Arcand became a regular contributor and I was able to welcome guest musicians like Deborah Laforet, Anna Sheridan-Jonah, Josh Laforet and Ella Pinette to help create new pieces of special music. With these completed musical recordings, I was putting together photo slide shows to accentuate the music or the message, using photos that were available for free public use. I choose these images with great care so that they create a seamless artistic expression of the song; visual art and music combined. I even tried a few small choir ensembles, but what I was really missing was our St. Paul's Adult Choir.

By the summer, I felt that I had enough skill and time to try tackling an anthem with the St. Paul's Adult Choir. I chose a familiar anthem "As the Deer", created practice tracks and invited them to try and record themselves singing the anthem. I have been so proud to see the members of the choir embrace this new idea with open arms and with all of their enthusiasm! It has been a steep learning curve for all involved, but they have handled it with patience (and sometimes exasperation and frustration), and always with good humour. This was the first time I tried to include all the video of the choir members together in one video and is yet another new skill I can add to my list! With the success of that anthem, the Adult Choir began rehearsals via Zoom on Thursday evenings and welcomed back some members that had moved far away. Today, we usually have 13 people at practice and anywhere between 13 and 20 voices on our recordings.

In the fall, I started to try to branch out and see if I could include different musicians and groups into the fold. The JR Worship Band, which includes 8 musical youth, had its first rehearsal and recorded "Oceans" for a service in November. Brian Lytle joined me with his harmonica we collaborated for some beautiful postludes and preludes. Thea Sheridan-Jonah shared her voice for a solo in the spring and Ron Brown and Taeyhung Chris Lee joined me for solos in the fall. We partnered with Merriam Music's Enriched Piano Program to help support these young, budding musicians by giving them a place to showcase their talent. The Worship Band was able to send in tracks for a fantastic piece on

Christmas Eve, and the Joyful Noise was able to send me voices and videos for two amazing pieces: one in the spring and one at Christmas.

I recently discovered that my friend and colleague from Merriam, Len Feldman, is the Musical Director at Erin Mills United Church and he and I have begun sharing resources and collaborating. I have also endeavoured to create a new digital, searchable online choir music catalogue to make it easier to search and find music for certain occasions, difficulty level, or based on certain verses in scripture. With the help of a high school volunteer, this project is well on its way.

Always looking for a new way to connect online in this challenging time, we were able to try a “Carols by Request” online carol sing over Zoom. This was very well attended and appreciated by all, so we have resolved to try and do more of these social singalongs in the future. Stay tuned!

I am blessed to have this opportunity to share my music with the St. Paul's community. In this challenging time, music can offer so much light. It can express the inexpressible. It can sooth the soul in times of stress and hardship. This year has definitely had its share of difficulties, but I am so proud to say that in 2020, I was able to create 110 hymns, 44 pieces of piano music and almost 50 videos of special music, solos and anthems. This is content that we will have forever, to use and reuse as needed. I look forward to the time when we can sing together in joy from the beautiful building that is home to our hearts, but I am also so thankful to be reminded that the church is more than just a building, and every time I create music for Sunday service, or meet with the JR Worship Band, or have choir practice on a Thursday evening, I feel the Creator at work.

### **TRACY MITCHELL – Children's Programming Developer, *St. Paul's United Church***

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#### Sunday School (JK-grade 6)

2020 was a year of change and adapting for the children of St Paul's. They have proven over and over again just how resilient they are. Sunday school attendance has actually grown significantly despite the pandemic! Prior to the pandemic we would only have about 5 to 8 children in attendance at the church each week. Now we have 18 children enrolled in our online program who attend on a regular basis.

Being at home doesn't slow these kids down! We meet online every Sunday morning for stories, games, crafts, and some very interesting discussions. Our Vacation Bible School went online in the summer, and despite some internet challenges was such a great success that it sparked the growth in our Sunday School.

Over the Christmas season the children made cards for many of our St Paul's friends and family. They also produced an amazing and epic Christmas pageant movie! As we settle into this new year, we intend to stay connected in fun and interesting ways.

Be well!

**JUDY DEMONE – Chair of Council, *St. Paul's United Church***

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As I sit down to write this and reflect on the last year at St. Paul's, I can't help but think about how Covid19 has changed everything and how much I am missing "normal" as are all of you I'm sure.

It has been a year with many challenges, but we have been so very fortunate to have many highlights to reflect upon throughout the last year. Positives were plentiful, and more importantly, the foundation on which our church stands continues to be strengthened. It's been particularly gratifying this year to see people taking on tasks beyond their normal roles, anything to make sure things continue to run smoothly.

I encourage you to read the various team reports within this Annual Report. The work that these teams have been doing is inspiring. For all of you driving these efforts, thank you, and for those looking to get involved further please reach out to me, to either of our ministers or anyone on council! We still have lots to do!

On behalf of council, I want to thank our Church Staff, all of whom have worked with great enthusiasm over the year, and their tireless dedication, endless efforts and willingness to stretch and try new things was evident. Their creativity in delivering new and refreshing worship services proved to be very successful and will remain a vital aspect of our congregation now and for the long-term relevancy of our church.

I would also like to express my gratitude to my fellow council members. Their willingness to serve, their preparedness and honest conversation made for effective and meaningful meetings. Even when our meetings became more frequent and pressing, the entire council embraced every situation and provided countless contributions. It has been a real pleasure to work with each and every one.

We have had several changes to the council this year. Jeff Kargus and Sue MacDonald stepped down from their positions. I thank them all for their significant contributions, they are missed. Candace Allen became Chair of Communication and is also serving as Council Secretary, and Kent Palmer took over as Vice Chair of Council.

By serving on the Council, I enjoy the opportunity of "seeing from the inside" some of what it takes to make St. Paul's run. Our ability to live into our mission is directly proportional to the contribution of our congregation, and our congregation is amazingly generous! We have so many people contributing their time, talent and treasure on a regular basis. Each and every contribution is appreciated, and I thank you.

To our congregation, we appreciate your support, encouragement and participation and we look forward to a time when we can all be together again in the St. Paul's Sanctuary, in this church we call our home.

**KENT PALMER – Chair, *St. Paul's Board of Trustees***

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The Board of Trustees have nothing of note to report for the year 2020.

We wait. We wait until the town has severed the property. Then we can initiate the sale of the manse. Until then we wait.

**AFFIRMING TEAM – Thea Sheridan-Jonah, *Team Chair***

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As I read over the affirm annual report from last year, I was somewhat amazed that last year was our first full year as a committee. In this past year we have done more than I could have ever imagined, and I could not be more grateful for the congregation and affirming team that made it all possible.

Most notably, this year we became an officially affirming church. With a tremendous turnout of 90 people on zoom on October 18, 2020 we voted and became affirming. This is a success to be incredibly proud of and it would not have been possible without the work of the affirming team, promotion of the phone tree callers, and support of our ministers. Thank you to the 2020-2021 Committee of Chris Lee, Kate Labelle, Kristina Kriston, co-chairs Judy DeMone and I, and our ministers Deborah Laforet and Carolyn Smith who are dedicated to our work both within and outside of the committee. Gary Davis stepped down from the committee in the fall and we thank him for his contributions.

Part of the success of this year came from the ability to transfer to online events but is all started in March with our PIE day. PIE Day was one of the last in person events St. Paul's held and it full of amazing food and conversations. Shortly after PIE day everything shut down and we transitioned to online programming. This included guest preachers and speakers like Pam Rocker, Junia Joplin and Sarina Sarraf. Then, online Pride services with guests Marcus Logan and Ally Philips, and internal committee work to draft our continuing plan of action and plan the affirming vote.

Currently, we are selling affirming rainbow masks made by a local artist.

Finally, we have come full circle with our PIE day coming up in March. This year we are having two online PIE day events online as well as integrating PIE into Sunday School and the Sunday service.

The main events are on Friday March 12th at 7pm; we are hosting a Coffee House for youth from within and beyond St. Paul's to share their music, poems, and anything else on the theme of belonging. We will be livestreaming the event on Facebook for all non-youth to watch.

Then on Saturday March 13th at 10:30 am – 11:30 am we will have as our guest speaker Michael Blair, the new (November 2020) General Secretary of the United Church of Canada. He will be speaking on intersectionality. Intersectionality is the need for diverse voices - for example when we talk about the LGBTQQIA+ community we do not exclude LGBTQQIA+ people of colour, disabled/people with disabilities, people in different classes and more. We will be joined by other affirming churches in the area (Port Nelson in Burlington and Applewood and Erin Mills in Mississauga, Royal York in Etobicoke), as well as two churches who are in the process of becoming affirming (Erin Mills in Mississauga and East Plains in Burlington). We will send out more information through the newsletter and on social media so keep an eye out for all to come.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to fulfilling our affirming commitment.  
Thea Sheridan-Jonah and the Affirming Committee

**CAPITAL PROJECTS – Harold DeVenne, *Team Chair***

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## Capital Projects Team – Sanctuary Renovation

This year had its surprises and wins. We submitted our Rezoning Application in February and received a date for the public meeting for April. This date was then cancelled due to Covid, and then rescheduled as a virtual meeting in June. There were no public submissions presented and our application was accepted for review by the Town.

The two large signs went up on the lawn of both the church and the manse, and very few comments have been received from the neighbours. These signs will be removed once our re-zoning application is approved by Town Council.

The Town reviewed the submission and they asked for further information including drawings by an engineer to show where the water and sewage lines are for both the Manse and the church. We asked the survey firm to give us a couple of options for the lot sizing and started the calculation re number of parking spaces required.

During discussions about parking with a different department at the Town, we discovered that the three metre buffer strip required around the new lot was in fact four and a half metres since it is a parking lot and driveway next to the lot. There is enough space in the parking lot so that we didn't lose spaces, but the length of the new manse lot will be reduced, but still meet town standards.

The parking spaces became an issue since nine of them don't meet current by-law requirements. We could not come up with the original approved site plan for the Sanctuary, so the Town could not give us status as legally non-conforming. We have since come up with a solution that will allow us to move forward and maintain our current parking spaces.

We have submitted all answers to the outstanding comments January 2021. Our application is scheduled to be reviewed and hopefully approved in early March, then we will file our severance application.

After the severance is approved, we have a little work to do prior to being able to put the Manse up for sale. Once the Manse goes up for sale, we will contact the architect and initiate a review of the prior plans for the renovation.

**COMMUNICATION – Candace Allen, *Team Chair***

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It certainly has been an interesting, different year. Some of the activities the Communications Team do have been put on hold.

The two main important items are the bimonthly newsletter and the web site.

The newsletter is important because with the church being closed, there is no weekly bulletin to keep everyone up to date on activities. We try to put interesting articles about upcoming events, Zoom meetings and community outreach events. We send out 216 emails with the newsletter, the open rate is around 60% which is 130 people opening.

If there is anyone we are missing and would like to receive this newsletter, please let us know and your name will be added.

Deborah looks after keeping the web site current also with upcoming events, Zoom links and articles of interest. We chose to discontinue working with Social Gourmet and Deborah and Carolyn post updates on Facebook and Instagram. Our social media presence is especially important, even more so now.

Jeff Laforet is our “sign guy”. He hopes his quotes on the sign make people smile as they drive along Rebecca Street.

We also post advertisements in the Oakville Beaver, i.e. Christmas and Easter Church service dates and times.

Our team is responsible for compiling the St. Paul's Annual Report with submissions from other Council Teams.

When we finally do open our doors, the Communications Team will keep everyone informed and up to date.

**FINANCE TEAM – Darren Pinette, Team Chair**

St. Paul's finished the 2020 fiscal year with an operating surplus of \$139,418, which was \$197,621 favourable than budget. The operating surplus and budget favourability were driven by a bequest received from the estate of the late John MacKay – a long-time member of the Church – of \$211,000. St. Paul's finished the year with an operating deficit of \$60,582, which was unfavourable to budget by \$2,379, if excluding the impact of the MacKay bequest.

**EXHIBIT A: 2020 FINANCIAL RESULTS COMPARED TO BUDGET**

	<u>2020 Actuals</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>Fav / (Unf)</u>
1 Offerings & Bequests	414,363	221,791	192,572
2 Less: Bequests	(211,000)	0	(211,000)
3 Offerings	203,363	221,791	(18,428)
4 Rental income	32,383	104,000	(71,617)
5 Other income	39,430	39,200	230
6 Total income	275,176	364,991	(89,815)
7 Salaries	213,824	296,796	82,972
8 Mission & Service	21,640	25,506	3,866
9 Building Operations	36,547	38,600	2,053
10 Other expenses	74,747	62,292	(12,455)
11 Total expenses	346,758	423,194	76,436
12 Less: Bequest Donations	(11,000)	0	11,000
13 Adjusted expenses	335,758	423,194	87,436
14 Adjusted net surplus/(deficit)	(60,582)	(58,203)	(2,379)
15 Net surplus/(deficit) with bequest	139,418	(58,203)	197,621

The 2020 budget expected an operating deficit of \$58,203 but did not incorporate any assumptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The budgeted deficit was based on the underlying trends in offering income softness as the Church continued its transition and progress toward balancing the budget over the medium term.

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in St. Paul's being closed for 42 weeks. The closure resulted in lost offering and rental income while the Church continued to incur fixed expenses, including staff salaries and building operating costs. The impact of the closure is estimated to be approximately \$154,000. However, the impact of the closure was largely offset by four factors: congregational offerings submitted via e-transfer or mail, the COVID-related federal government wage subsidy, Council's decision to pause certain expenses and the online bazaar held in the Fall.



**EXHIBIT B: FINANCIAL IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON 2020 PERFORMANCE**

**Financial Impact**

Envelope offerings	73,524
Loose offerings	2,362
Rental income	67,256
Functions and rummage sale	9,382
Lost income	<u>152,524</u>
Substitute musician	1,350
<b>Total impact</b>	<b>153,874</b>

**Mitigating Factors**

Sent-in offerings	70,421
COVID-19 subsidy	49,917
Expense pauses	27,959
Holiday Jingle bazaar	4,138
<b>Total mitigating factors</b>	<b>152,435</b>

**Net financial impact**                      **1,439**

St. Paul's Finance Committee expects the Church will continue to operate in a deficit position for 2021, although at a more favourable position relative to 2020 (budgeted operating deficit is \$38,000 in 2021 compared to the \$61,000 deficit in 2020). The 2021 budget is based on the assumption of re-opening the Church in June 2021, with a modest ramp-up in offering and rental income in the back half of the year. Expenses will increase by \$36,000, or 11%, in 2021 driven by a significant reduction in the COVID wage subsidy compared to 2020. Expenses are budgeted to be flat in 2021 if excluding the impact of the wage subsidy.

A financial audit is in progress and we expect it to be completed by the end of March, 2021.

I would like to extend a HUGE thank-you to a number of people who, without their dedication and commitment, would make managing the St. Paul's day-to-day financial responsibilities very difficult, if not impossible.

David Fan – for serving as St. Paul's Treasurer and producing our financial statements for the first half of the year

Grace Jeong – for managing payroll and serving as St. Paul's Treasurer and producing our financial statements for the second half of the year

Jeanne Kho – for managing day-to-day financial postings and paying bills

Ron Shermet – for running a smooth counting operation, when we were physically in the Church

Judy DeMone – for always being available to provide support, advice and guidance

**MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS TEAM – Harold DeVenne, *Team Chair***

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The Mental Health and Wellness Team met on January 19, 2020 just before the pandemic hit. We talked about a number of different options to look at in the future. Since that time, we have not met. As a sense of normality returns, we will probably reflect on how the pandemic affected the congregation and if there are some issues we may be able to address in the future.

Team: Harold DeVenne, Jay Smith, Rob Phillips, Shirley-Anne Cooper-Maimot, Deborah Laforet, Frank O'Byrne, Carilyn McNaught

**MISSION TEAM – Harold DeVenne, *Team Chair***

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The Mission Team met three times in the early part of the year. We met to review the Neighbour Care Network which is an initiative of Kerr Street Ministries. The concept is to centralize support for families and individuals in difficulty and distress with the support of local church compassion ministries. The Mission Team felt that this was something the congregation could support, and we made a proposal to Council to become part of the network. The Council agreed and approved a motion that we become a supporting member of the network.

We agreed to provide support where needed to the Affirming Committee, but that became complicated as the pandemic took hold. Having said that, the Affirming Committee was a very strong group and seemed to not suffer much without our assistance.

Our other initiative was to begin a "Spotlight on Outreach" and Allyson Mitchell-Neufeld ran with the concept. Our first "Spotlight" is the TOTs program and its beginnings which was presented as part of the January 3, 2021 service. We will try and put out a new video each quarter "Spotlighting" different aspect of our outreach at St. Paul's.

At the end of the year, John Perry resigned from the team. John was one of the initial team members and his insight and expertise will be missed. Wendy Walker also resigned from the team and her hard work ethic and inquiring nature will also be missed greatly. We also approached Jenn Pham-MacMillan to join the team. Jenn joined us for our last two meetings, and we hope she will agree to continue. We could use a few more members from the younger, newer portion of the St. Paul's family on the team. Please contact Harold DeVenne (905-827-0787) or Carolyn Smith if you would like to "test us out" or simply join the team.

Harold on behalf of the team – Jeff Kargus, Allyson Mitchell-Neufeld, Carolyn Smith, Jenn Pham-MacMillan

The Mission Team looks forward to 2020 and working with Carolyn Smith as a member of the team who brings both energy and knowledge.

### **NURTURING CARE TEAM – Carilyn McNaught, *Team Chair***

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Our committee is a team of 5 (Carolyn Smith, Judy DeVenne, Jackie O'Byrne, BJ (Betty Jane) Young and Carilyn McNaught) who before coronavirus, met once a month at the church.

On February 9th, Tracy Mitchell held a "special friend's luncheon" in the small gym where the children made valentines and then the adults joined them creating a magnetic cross with "God is Love". Nurturing Care sent these out during the year to members.

Then in March, we ALL became affected by Covid which changed our lives! Our ministers, Deborah and Carolyn had us set up a phone tree network so we could connect with people. You will be receiving frequent phone calls from Carol Ann Hunt, Lorne Mousley, Cynthia Steneveld, Jackie O'Byrne, Irene Murray, Judy DeVenne, Margaret White, Frank O'Byrne, Joan Ford, Pat Mason, BJ Young, Terry Farris, Marjorie Boyce, Gayle Shermet and Carilyn McNaught. We realize people are suffering with loneliness, sickness, loss of a loved one or a job and dealing with children online schooling while one or both parents are working from home.

Our new St. Paul's Knitting group have been busy "clicking their needles" making prayer shawls and prayer squares which have been enjoyed by many. Thea Sheridan-Jonah made 30 handwritten notes which we sent to people who appreciated a teenager taking the time to talk about her life!

THANK YOU to those who have contributed to our casserole, stew, chili, soup, muffin and cookie ministry. Twenty-five families received meals this year. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please phone Carilyn McNaught at 905 827 1828. Five St. Paul's Prayer Bears found homes this year. Lots of greeting cards were sent this year.

December was a busy month since the Sunday School made 42 Christmas cards and we sent out St. Paul's Poinsettia sanctuary Christmas cards too. We delivered 17 angels that lit up which helped brighten some of the Senior's Christmas. Our "Longest Night" service was held on December 21st. We invited those who were feeling grief, loss, or just the heaviness of a difficult time, to an online service of candle lighting to honour our struggles and rediscover God's continuous presence through dark times. It included the participation of our whole team and some others creating a warm and meaningful circle of real people despite the limitation of online gathering.

Nurturing Care continues to communicate by email and phone trying to keep in touch with everyone.

May God Bless and Keep you Safe!

### **OAKVILLE READY TEAM – Harold DeVenne, *Team Chair***

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Since most of the year was under pandemic conditions, there has been limited involvement with Oakville Ready. Harold and Deborah attended a Zoom meeting in May where there was a general update and status and a point of connection with the Faith organizations involved. Since then, there have been no further meetings.

**OUTREACH TEAM – Kate Labelle, *Team Chair***

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2020 was a quiet year for the St Paul's Outreach Committee. Unfortunately, the restrictions on gathering brought on by the pandemic made it difficult to coordinate meaningful 'hands on' initiatives within the community.

Despite this, we did manage to cater brown bag breakfasts for Kerr Street Ministries on two separate occasions during the year where we provided a balanced breakfast for 75-100 people in need in our community.

Several members of the congregation also participated in a food drive for OakvilleReady / Kerr Street Ministries in August.

With the goal of helping to alleviate some of the extra strain put on our community support programs and services by the pandemic, \$11,000 from the McKay Endowment was forwarded to the following charities:

- Fare Share Food Bank, \$1,000
- Halton Women's Place, \$1,000
- Food for Kids Halton, \$1,000
- The Salvation Army Lighthouse \$1,000
- Kerr Street Mission, \$2,000
- Kerr Street Mission Neighbour Care Network, \$4,000
- Positive Space Network \$1,000

The St. Paul's community continues its support of the United Church of Canada's Mission & Service Fund, contributing \$21, 640.00 in 2020.

The 2020 Christmas Offering, totalling \$3, 743.00 was forwarded to the Minister's Benevolent Fund - this fund is used at the discretion of the Ministers to help those in need in our community.

Under the direction of Doris Cassidy, St. Paul's continued its support of the Kiva Loans Program, a non-profit organization that allows people to provide interest-free "micro-loans" to low income entrepreneurs around the world. More information on how St. Paul's supports this initiative is available upon request, or for more general information on Kiva Loans you can visit [www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org).

As always, the Outreach Committee would love to boost its membership - please consider joining this important committee and bring with you your ideas and suggestions on how St. Paul's can help the community and wider world. We would love to have you join us!

We pray for the end of the pandemic and a return to a world where we can safely and joyfully gather together. We encourage you to think of creative ways St. Paul's can actively make a difference in the world so when restrictions are finally lifted, we will be ready to put our ideas into action.

## **PROPERTY REPORT – Tom Allen, Bert Fonseca**

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Sue Macdonald started the year as chairperson, and with family commitments and new employment found she had to pull back. We thank her for her work these past couple of years.

Room Rentals - Jeanne Kho and Michele Swanson-Mousley addressed coordination and timing issues for the greatly reduced rentals due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Garbage Removal - For several months in early pandemic when we did not have renters, Roy McNaught was let go and Harold DeVenne filled in with clearing the garbage and placing at the curb. As renters returned in the summer, Roy was contacted and resumed reduced duties to provide cleaning between renters each week.

Sump Overflow - issue in January 2020 lead to replacement of the sump pump after several attempts to clear the sump and get the old one going were not successful.

Basement Leak Room-8 – Tom Allen and Bryan MacMillan rerouted two downspouts and graded drainage from the north-west corner of the sanctuary, to prevent water ingress in Room-8 and reduce likelihood of west wall leak at the north entrance.

West Wall Leak Near North Entrance - wall cracked below window, no action yet. We should clear the leaves at the scupper first before calling in roofers.

Flat Roof - leak over Notice Board - leaves cleared and downspout thawed. May have to call roofers in spring/summer.

Vacuum Cleaner – Replaced electrical plug.

Lawn Mower/s – Repairs undertaken by Don Cox when someone accidentally tried to take out a tree stump! Normal maintenance consisted of Tom Allen doing some adjustments.

Lawn Cutting Team - Headed by Gary Collins with Rob Phillips, Doug Francis, Bryan MacMillan, Tom Allen, Kent Palmer, Jeff Kargus, Marc Therrien, Sue Macdonald, Greig Carson

Gardens - Frank and Jackie O'Byrne

Security Team - Harold DeVenne, Frank O'Byrne, Bert Fonseca, Tom Allen, with Jeff Laforet and Matt Jonah at the outset of the year. – including heating adjustments.

The property team has been without a Chair since Sue MacDonald resigned. It would be nice if someone would volunteer to fill this vacancy to spearhead resolution to the constant property issues that occur during the year.

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**REFUGEE COMMITTEE – Pat Mason, Co-Chair**

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In 2020, the Refugee team was co-chaired by Bev Phillips and Pat Mason. Additional team members were Selina Bajorek, Alice DesLauriers-Bunn, Hana Manssor, Matt Sheridan-Jonah, and Deborah Laforet from St. Paul's, along with Gary Dobbie, Chris Middlebro, and Paul Peters from Glen Abbey United Church.

The Refugee Committee has continued to actively support our sponsored family in a variety of ways during 2020. Juleet, her daughter Mariam, and Mariam's husband Salam arrived in Canada on May 13, 2019. Juleet's son Salam arrived in Canada on July 8, 2019. Our official financial sponsorship obligations for these four individuals have now been met. Both Salams have been working steadily and the family unit is now financially independent. We would like to acknowledge Bryan MacMillan for his assistance in providing meaningful employment for these family members.

In April, we had several social distancing meetings with family members regarding housing, as the lease that had been signed by St. Paul's expired June 7, 2020. Various options were explored. Subsequently, the family has renewed the lease on the home at 351 Maurice Drive until the end of June 2021. At the time, we were hopeful that this residence could also become the home for Anas, Suzan (Juleet's daughter), and their boys, once they arrived in Canada.

We have been in regular contact with the United Church of Canada, our MPs, and IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) on the status of our application for Suzan, Anas, and their two sons Tonee and Dani. We have been working through the MP offices of John Oliver and Anita Anand, in order to move the process along. Since September 2019, we have been told that the government is waiting for certain security information from an independent agency that is hired to provide this data.

The worldwide Covid 19 pandemic has upended all aspects of life, including the operation of overseas IRCC offices and international travel. So, we wait. We wait for a paper of security clearance. We wait for IRCC offices to clear backlogs. We wait. In the meantime, living conditions in Lebanon that were precarious even before the advent of Covid 19 are getting steadily worse. The explosion in the harbor area of Beirut last fall destroyed lives, homes, and businesses. Miles away, the windows in Anas and Suzan's one room home, shared with another family, were shattered by the blast. Tonee and Dani, who are now nine and 12 ½ years old, have not been able to attend a formal school since the family fled to Lebanon in 2014. We wait, anxiously to get the family to Canada to begin to build their life here.

**STEWARDSHIP TEAM – Michele Swanson-Mousley, *Team Chair***

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The year of 2020 was a time of dramatic disruption and ongoing uncertainty. Even now, the pandemic continues to take lives, requires social distancing that upends the global economy, and prevents us from coming together in response to crisis, as we ordinarily would.

The challenges to our faith and religious practice are very real. All of our ways of being a community of faith have been paused, discontinued, or rearranged. Meetings, pastoral care, and worship are all being conducted online, as we isolate in our homes. Every day we read or hear about people who are sick, dying, or vulnerable, as well as about the sacrifices made by healthcare workers and those in other essential professions who enable this large-scale response. In this circumstance, we are beginning to ask about an unknown future. Returning to “normal” seems nostalgic, and even identifying what a “new normal” might look like may be beyond our imagination in these early days of 2021. Yet, we cannot help but look ahead to a time when we resume some of the activities of daily life.

God has a purpose for every season, and in this time of grief and change, the community of St. Paul's has responded to God with faithful stewardship in so many ways. Online worship, emailed newsletters, Zoom coffee hour, and electronic apps instead of offering plates might feel tactical, but they continue to be expressions of our faithfulness in a time of change. Handmade notes, casseroles, muffins, telephone calls and running errands for those of us that cannot risk leaving home keep us connected to each other as we navigate into our second year of living with Covid-19.

The St. Paul's Stewardship Team is grateful for the faithful gifts of this congregation.

**“Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.”**

*~ Martin Luther King, Jr.*

**UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW) – Pat Mason, *Team Representative***

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The United Church Women (UCW) have the purpose to unite all women of the congregation for the total mission of the Church and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus the Christ, in Christian Witness, Fellowship, and Service.

2020, the first year of a global pandemic, resulted in major changes for the UCW. Normally we would have several general meetings each year, as well as monthly unit meetings. The units, Sarah, Live, High 5's, and Mariam attempted to hold meetings either thru zoom, or thru outdoor, socially distanced gatherings when the weather was favourable. In the absence of these regular gatherings, the members kept in touch by phone and other socially distanced means.

In addition to the various unit gatherings, there were two general meetings. On February 11, 2020, the Sarah unit hosted 27 members in a meeting at the church.

Carolyn Smith was our guest speaker, on the topic "The Buyerarchy of Needs". A lively discussion followed of the ways we can be more ecologically friendly to Mother Earth. Members were encouraged to use what they have, borrow, swap, or make items, before resorting to buying. Little did we know that this was an advance tutorial on how to live simply during a worldwide pandemic!

On December 15, 2020, the UCW held a second general meeting to discuss the year end financial picture, and whether we would financially support various community organizations again this year. Eight members participated in a zoom meeting. Despite the fact that the UCW did not host a fundraising project in 2020, it was decided to give increased donations to a reduced number of organizations. We focussed on charities, local if possible, for women, children, youth, and seniors in particular need, due to issues related to mental health stress, marital abuse, and homelessness. This year donations were made to ROCK (Reach Out Centre for Kids), Halton Women's Place, Hope Place Women's Treatment Centre, Kerr Street Ministries, Salvation Army Lighthouse, CAMH (Canadian Association for Mental Health), Ian Anderson House, and Acclaim Health/Alzheimer Services. The total expenditure for this community outreach was \$3500.00.

Again this year, several individuals volunteered to assist with our organizational structure. Helga de Lint continued to coordinate information to be shared with UCW members, Carilyn McNaught was the UCW representative to attend Council meetings, Terry Farris was Corresponding secretary, Pat Mason was Treasurer, Carilyn McNaught and Sue Rumsey were additional signers at the credit union, Joan Ford and Velma Ivey coordinated Outreach for the one funeral we assisted with, and Irene Murray kept us informed about members' changes in addresses or telephone contacts. Finally, Cynthia Steneveld, Carilyn McNaught, Sharon Wiese, and Catherine Arcand-Pinette continued as the contact persons for the units. We are thankful to all these individuals who offered their time, energy, and leadership.

The 2020 Holiday Jingle Bazaar, was a virtual, very successful event, organized by both UCW and nonUCW members of the congregation. This year the monies raised went to the general operating fund for St. Paul's. The UCW would like to congratulate the organizers of this event, Catherine Arcand-Pinette, Candace Allen, Rhiannon Filip, Shirley-Anne Cooper-Maimot, Deborah Laforet, Carilyn McNaught and Grace Jeong, for their efforts. In addition, we would like to thank all members of the congregation for their support of this fundraiser.

In 2020, we were saddened by the loss of five former long time UCW members – Iris Graydon, Doris Chappelle, Dene Malott, Julia Rice, and Arlene MacDonald.



**WORSHIP TEAM – Kristina Kriston, *Team Chair******Report submitted by Carol Anne Hunt***

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For most of 2020 St. Paul's staff conducted virtual Sunday services due to the closure of the sanctuary because of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are thankful for our ministers and music staff who so willingly pivoted to online services. They spent a great deal of time mastering the technology to present inspirational services.

The new medium was very conducive to including participation from many of St. Paul's congregation of all ages. With the additions of the chat box and Zoom coffee hour we could feel somewhat connected in spite of the physical isolation.

Along with members of the Worship Team-- Fay Copland, Rachel Couban, Jennifer Gunter, Carol Anne Hunt, Kristina Kriston, Deborah Laforet, Chris Lee and Thea Sheridan-Jonah --many others from the congregation have assisted in the duties. We thank those who schedule greeters, ushers, readers, tech support; those who tidy pew racks; and others who keep banners, decorations, and flowers in season.

Our congregation welcomed several guest speakers throughout the year. All special services to celebrate the seasons of the church year were planned and most were conducted virtually. The ministers lead us in communion each month. A significant event of 2020 was the service on November 22 to celebrate St. Paul's as an Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada, with Pan Rocker from Calgary as guest speaker.

We all look forward to a time when we can meet in person in our sanctuary.

**JOYFUL NOISE – Bev Phillips, *Choir Director***

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If you walk down the hall outside of Room 10 at 9:15 on most Sunday mornings you will hear the joyful sound of children's voices. The Joyful Noise is a group of lively singers ranging in age from 4 to 10. Last year these enthusiastic singers sang for Sunday morning services, Music at Ten as well as for special services on Easter and Christmas Eve. They also joined together with the adult choir to sing an anthem in both the spring and the fall and were particularly excited to have had a part with the adult choir and youth singers in the Christmas Cantata "Behold That Star!" We are a very friendly group and welcome new singers to join us at any time.

**TOTS AND US – Nancy Schaubel, *Team Representative***

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“Tots and Us” is a gently-g geared program for preschoolers and babies, along with their caregivers. It runs for one hour, 10-11 a.m. on Monday mornings at St. Paul’s. We offer two age-related levels of free play in two of our Sunday School rooms during the first half hour. The children can choose from a variety of toys and activities in these spaces.

At 10:30 a.m., it’s time to move into the small auditorium where music and story time take place, led by Catherine Arcand-Pinette. Before the program wraps up, a snack of cookies and juice is served to the children and coffee or tea is available for the adults. Our small guests can visit our library to colour or check out books and videos before they leave for home.

Sadly, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the “Tots and Us” program came to an abrupt end on March 9, 2020. At that time, there were 24 registrations with an average of 5-6 children attending every week.

**PUBS & PEWS – Jeff Kargus, *Team Representative***

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Pubs & Pews continued in an online format throughout 2020 because of the Pandemic. As a result, many new members were able to join the group from the comfort of their own homes! In a year that proved challenging for many reasons, the pandemic didn't stop this group gathering to share a laugh.

**HOLIDAY JINGLE BAZAAR – Candace Allen, *Event Leadership Team***

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The Holiday Jingle was held “virtually” this year. There were three different online “vendors”: the Country Store organized by Catherine Arcand-Pinette, Candace Allen and Rhiannon Filip, the Silent Auction gift baskets organized by Shirley-Anne Cooper-Maimot and the Knitting Table organized by Carilyn McNaught and Grace Jeong.

The Country Store was done based on pre-ordered food this year. Instead of purchasing the products that had been prepared, we asked many wonderful volunteers what they would like to make and then took orders online for those products. Some suggestions were soup, macaroni and cheese and of course our famous tourtieres. There were some jams and preserves and candy like chocolate bark, fudge, peanut brittle and chocolate covered oreos. A link was prepared in Google Forms which allowed customers to order whatever they would like. The link was open for a week so that the volunteer food preparers had two weeks to prepare the orders and freeze if necessary. The products were then dropped off at the church on Friday December 4 for curbside pick-up Saturday December 5 in half hour intervals in compliance with COVID protocols. It was different but went very smoothly. We received many compliments and felt the Country Store was very successful.

The Knitting table followed the same design. They took pictures of sweaters, mittens and baby items. The pictures and description was put on Google Forms and customers could order whatever items they would like. Grace and Carilyn organized the items and had them ready for curbside pick-up on the Saturday.

The Auction Gift baskets were done a little differently. Because it needed to be a “live” auction (meaning people could bid on the baskets and outbid others like a silent auction), pictures and descriptions were posted on Facebook and customers could bid on any item, in the “comments” section and outbid their competitors. There were over 45 gift baskets donated. The auction was open for a week. Once all the bids were in, Shirley Anne was in touch with the winners and they came to pick up their baskets on the Saturday.

Although this Holiday Jingle Bazaar was very different, we were incredibly proud of its success. Our profit from all three “vendors” was \$4,138.70. This money was put into the General Account to help offset some of the costs we are incurring with having a “closed” church.

We may do something similar next year or a combination of both events, in person shopping and virtual shopping. Stay tuned.

Thank you to everyone who prepared food, knitted items and donated gift baskets. Also thank you all the customers who bought and enjoyed our merchandise and goodies.

**GUIDING AT ST. PAUL'S – Deanna Jones, *Community Guider***

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The year 2020 started out great for guiding at St. Paul's ! We had 4 units active at St Paul's. The active units are Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders- girls from senior kindergarten age to grade 9 !

For many, many years St Paul's has supported guiding- we are so grateful for the safe space to meet and help the children grow with our program and live through our promise and law. They learn about themselves while trying new skills; learning to work and play together; becoming great citizens!

From March 13, 2020 guiding had to change! The leaders are fantastic. They finished off the 2019/2020 guiding year with online program - Putting program packages together to drop off to the girls!

In startup in September we were only able to start up the Sparks, Brownies and Guides. They met outside in person or online- the leaders came up with amazing ideas for outdoors and then online when it was getting too dark and cold during meeting time. They included a few more weekend meetings outdoors! Due to the recent lock down we are now back to online program only. It has been a struggle but well worth it to keep guiding going.

We hope we can return to St. Paul's for our meetings when we can safely get back to in person/indoor guiding meetings.

We are praying for all to be safe and healthy as we live through the life Covid has given us all - with faith and patience!

Until we can meet in person!

Thank you St Paul's!

Deanna Jones  
Community Guider, Community 14 (Oakville)  
Girl Guides of Canada

**TRAFALGAR SCOUT GROUP – Ian Reilly, Program Leader**

On behalf of 7th Trafalgar Scout Group, we would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to the Membership and Staff of St. Paul's United Church for their ongoing support of our Group and the Scouting Program. Also, for the broader support we receive from the congregation members.

Section	Weekly Meetings			Membership	
	Night	Time	Duration	Youth	Volunteers
Beaver Colony (5-7yrs)	Tuesday	6:30pm -7:30pm	Sept to May	4	3
Cub Pack (8-10yrs)	Wednesday	6:30pm -8:00pm	Sept to May	21	6
Scout Troop (11-14yrs)	Tuesday	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Sept to August	12	7
Venturer Company (15-17yrs)	Wednesday	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Sept to August	8	4
Group Committee	Varies	Varies	Sept to August	N/A	6

We are always looking for more people to join us – Youth and Volunteers. If you would like more information, please contact us at [7thtrafalgar@oakville.scouter.ca](mailto:7thtrafalgar@oakville.scouter.ca)

As with all organizations, Scouts Canada has had to pivot to accommodate various health restrictions and local regulations. We have put policies in place that comply with these rules, as well accommodate what our volunteers, youth and families are comfortable with, given their home situation. (Some may only be interested in virtual activities, while others are interested in specific in-person activities when they are allowed.)

**1. 7<sup>th</sup> Trafalgar Group Committee**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Group Committee is made up of Parents and Volunteers who support the Section Scouters and organize events and fundraising activities to help support the Group's Youth and Program activities. Unfortunately, due to COVID, we could not run any in-person group events after our Annual Founders Day Pasta Dinner in February. Scouts Canada shifted to online fundraisers Scout Coffee and Scout Seeds. Campaigns are currently underway to fund equipment and supplies used by the Youth as part of their regular program meetings and activities.

**2. 7<sup>th</sup> Trafalgar Scout Group Beaver Scout Colony**Section Overview

Fun and friendship are the cornerstone of the Beaver Scouts program.

Beavers opens the door for your child to discover the world. It is filled with a little bit of everything – outdoor activities, games, music and sports. Along the way, Beaver Scouts meet new friends, learn cooperation and teamwork and develop self-confidence.

#### 2020 Program Year

This year we have went from 24 Beavers to very small number as many families with young children are keeping them close to home due to the pandemic. Before local health regulations prevented in-person activities, the Beavers went sledding, built their Beaver Buggies and ran them in races, and visited a local fire hall. The Beavers then shifted to virtual activities and enjoyed scavenger hunts around the house, crafts and joke nights. When rules allowed, the Beavers went hiking and explored Oakville trails.

Five of our Beavers earned their North Star Award, the top-section award for the Beaver Program. These youths earned their Outdoor Activity Skill (OAS) badges for hiking, winter skills and vertical skills, and performed at least 5 hours of service work. They also organized a diaper drive for a local community organization (with the pandemic, it quickly shifted to an online drive rather than an in-person activity)

### **3. 7<sup>th</sup> Trafalgar Scout Group Cub Scout Pack**

#### Section Overview

With the Cub Scouts motto of "Do Your Best" front and center, Cubs are encouraged to try new and more challenging activities. Learning important first aid skills, paddling a canoe for the first time, or leading a game at camp will open the door for Cubs to try other adventures they never thought possible.

Along the way, Cubs learn how to take care of themselves and work as a team – and most importantly have a lot of fun!

#### 2020 Program Year

As with all programming in March of 2020, 7th Trafalgar Cub Pack was disrupted by COVID. We moved to online meetings during lockdown and finished out the remainder of our program year with virtual meetings. The Cub Pack took the summer off as usual. The return to school in September left many questions about what the fall programming may look like. 7th Trafalgar Cubs took a cautious “wait and see” approach before returning to in-person programming mid-October.

Cubs met outside throughout the fall, right up until Christmas. Upon reflection we realize that COVID has forced us to go back to Scouting roots and get everyone outside as much as possible. Indoor meetings are still banned under current regulations.

With the lockdown at Christmas, we had to revert to online programming until mid-February but have since been back outside. Our thriving Cub Pack of 32 has decreased to 20. Membership across Scouting has been challenged as have all extracurricular programs. The smaller group size has been beneficial for programming as we are only allowed to have 16 members present at one time for outdoor events, so we do a rotation to accommodate everyone.

Feedback from parents and youth tell us that being outside is key for most of them. The online programming, although quality and necessary during lockdown feels too much like the rest of their day when they are in front of screens for school.

As the weather improves, we look forward to longer daylight hours and perhaps adding in some day camps to work on Scouting skills as overnight camping is still not allowed.

### **4. 7<sup>th</sup> Trafalgar Scout Group Scout Troop**

Section Overview

Scouts is about having fun while gaining valuable leadership skills and self-confidence.

Scouts enjoy outdoor adventures like mountain biking, rock climbing and lots of camping while working together with other young people to accomplish thrilling challenges and contribute to their communities.

2020 Program Year

The Scout Troop is now 12 Scouts and 7 Scouters. It has been an interesting year so far with a mix of online and outdoor in-person meetings.

In September, we started the year with a campfire to plan our activities for the balance of the year. Our typical in-person meetings include physical fitness activities like hiking, outdoor games and some basic scout craft activities to work on skills like teamwork, planning and wilderness skills.

Online meetings are used to give the youth a chance to interact with friends, work through survival scenarios and play some interactive games where planning and teamwork comes into focus.

Scouting requires a strong outdoor focus, which is great considering we can't meet indoors this year.

As the weather improves, and if we can get together in person, we will continue with skills like rope lashing, stove and lantern, fire safety, axe and saw safety, knife safety, and outdoor survival skills. We are all looking forward to getting back to camping when permitted.

**5. 7<sup>th</sup> Trafalgar Scout Group Venturer Scout Company**Section Overview

The Venturer Scout program offers exciting, real-life, hands-on experiences for youth. Venturers learn to nurture an active, healthy lifestyle; acquire the knowledge and skills for career development; and participate in thrilling outdoor adventures. Weekend events, extended hikes, Leave No Trace camping, spiritual reflection, community service and round out the Venturer experience.

2020 Program Year

It has been a crazy year since our last Report. We did manage to get a final camp in before the lock down in late February. A 4 night, 5-day adventure at Ragged Falls Scout Camp. (Oxtonge River) Venturers were completely responsible for all elements of planning, preparing and reconciling the camp finances.

The Venturers, alongside the Scouts organized our annual family dinner for all of the 7th Trafalgar Scouting Group on World Thinking Day (Founders Day) each third week in February at St. Paul's Church.

Our Venturers participated and volunteered with clean-up duties following the St. Paul's Pancake dinner.

John Glavota received his Chief Scout Award in June. (Highest achievement award earned by Scouts and 1<sup>st</sup> year Venturers – 4 years to achieve)

From March to August the group met online (virtually) doing various activities. Planning next canoe trip, Jack Box Games, and Scout Craft (cooking meals) to name a few.

In September, Scouts Canada permitted outdoor face to face meetings (no Camping). We started the year with a campfire, planning activities for the balance of the year. Bike Hike at Bronte Provincial Park, Hike from Limehouse to Speyside, and an Investiture nig

# APPENDICES





- Motion to approve the 2019 Annual Report excluding Financial Statements

Omnibus Motion: Bert Fonseca                      Seconded: Harold DeVenne                      .....Carried

**5. Motion to approve St. Paul's Affirm Vision Statement:**                      Thea Sheridan-Jonah

6.

“We are seeking to be a safe and inclusive faith community for people of all gender identities, sexual orientations, marital status, family configuration, abilities, ages, races, ethnicities, faiths, and socio-economic circumstances, who will be encouraged to participate fully in all aspects of the life and work of our community, thereby enriching all.”

Seconded: Kent Palmer                      ..... Carried

**7. Ministry and Personnel Motion - all ministers and family of ministers to leave the room for this motion.**

John Perry

Motion: “After discussion and agreement in Ministry and Personnel meetings as well as at Chairs and Council meetings, I would move that Deborah Laforet's salary be increased by \$5,000.00 per annum, retroactive to January 1, 2020.”

Seconded: Al Simpson                      ..... Carried

**8. Approval of Council Membership – 2020:**                      Judy DeMone

- Motion to approve Council Membership

Motion: Darren Pinette                      Seconded: Chris Lee                      ..... Carried

- Motion to authorize Council to continue its work to fill vacancies

Motion: Harold DeVenne                      Seconded: Tom Allen                      ..... Carried

**8. 2019 Financial Statement Presentation:**                      Darren Pinette

- Financial Overview was presented by Darren. A 2019 review was discussed and looking ahead to 2020 was reviewed.
- An Audit will be done in March, auditing both 2018 and 2019.

a) Motion to accept the 2019 Financial Statements as presented.

Motion: Darren Pinette                      Seconded: Ron Shermet                      ..... Carried

b) Motion to continue contributing 10% of envelope, PAR and loose offerings plus the Lenten offering to the United Church Mission & Service Fund

Motion: Darren Pinette                      Seconded: Pat Mason                      ..... Carried

**9. 2020 Budget:**                      Darren Pinette

a) 2020 Budget Presentation

b) Motion to approve 2020 budget by Darren Pinette

Seconded: Bert Fonseca                      ..... Carried

**10. Motion to allocate Anniversary offering for 2019:**                      Jeff Kargus

- “I move that this year’s anniversary offering be split, with 50% going to the Positive Space Network and 50% being allocated for the repair needed in Room 8”.

Seconded: Thea Sheridan-Jonah                      ..... Carried

**11. New Business:**                      Judy DeMone

- Jeff Laforet wished to thank the UCW for their donation to the Rendezvous event in Calgary this August.

- Kent Palmer thanked John Perry for his service as Chair of Ministry and Personnel.

**12. Courtesies:**

John Perry

John expressed appreciation on behalf of the St. Paul's church community, to all the staff at St. Paul's for all their hard work and dedication this past year. Thank you cards were given to Deborah Laforet, Carolyn Smith, Ross Stretton. Gifts to Jeanne Kho, Tracy Mitchell and Linden Sheridan-Jonah will be presented at a later time.

**13. Close Meeting:**

TIME: 12:55 pm

Judy DeMone

**14. Benediction:**

Carolyn Smith

"We've created a mosaic of our life and work together, connecting, engaging and transforming in God's radiant way."

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Candace Allen, Secretary of Council

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Judy DeMone, Chair of Council

**MEETING MINUTES: Congregational Meeting – Sunday October 18, 2020**

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Zoom Meeting to pass the Motion that St. Paul's United Church become a welcoming, Affirming Church. There were 90 Church members and adherents present on Zoom or by telephone.

- Welcome and Opening Prayer Deborah Laforet
- Call for nomination of Chairperson Deborah Laforet  
Darlene Cox : Move that Judy DeMone is Chair  
Second: John Perry Carried
- Call for nomination of Secretary Judy DeMone  
Move to nominate Candace Allen : Kent Palmer  
Second: Faith Witt Carried
- Motion to approve agenda Carried  
Move: Bert Fonseca    Second: Choeun (Grace) Jeong
- Motion to extend voting privileges to adherents Carried  
Move: Ron Shermet    Second: Bev Phillips
- Introduce the motion.
- Motion to approve that St. Paul's Become an Affirming Ministry Thea Sheridan-Jonah

**I move that St. Paul's United Church in Oakville become an affirming ministry and a member of affirm united.**

Second: Cathy Duddeck

- Questions: One person wanted to know with there would be an abstinence vote, as well as yes/no. It was said yes, the third poll question would ask if anyone was abstaining from voting.
  - Vote: Confidential Poll vote was issued.
  - Report Results: Of 90 participants, 86 voted YES and 1 voted NO and 3 abstained. Carried
  - Close Meeting – Carolyn Smith and Jeff Laforet gave Thank You's to the Affirming Team and the ministers for all the hard work they put into the project for the last two years. Also thanking all the members of St Paul's congregation that came out, on Zoom for by telephone, to participate in the important vote.
- Judy DeMone
- Benediction: Closing prayer written by Carolyn but read by Deborah.

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Candace Allen, Secretary of Council

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Judy DeMone, Chair of Council