

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

FALL/ WINTER NEWSLETTER 2015/16

It has come to our attention that we may not have been keeping our congregation members informed as to what our church is doing in the community.

Our regular Newsletter is mailed to every household on our Congregational Roll and a monthly e-mail with Coming Events keeps those that have given us their e-mail addresses updated with what is happening in and around St. Paul's. If we don't have your e-mail address and you would like to be a part of this notification process please send it to stpaulsu@sasktel.net and we can add you to our list. We need to find more comprehensive ways of communicating with parishioners who do not regularly attend services. We fully understand people's reluctance to answer a request for support if you do not know who or what will be the recipient of your contribution.

St. Paul's has provided for members and non-members **funerals**. Our Interim Minister, Rev. Sharon Ferguson-Hood, meets with the families prior to the service and provides After-Care, if requested. St. Paul's is the church that people with no church affiliation come to for their loved ones final Celebration of Life which we are happy to do.

Tisdale and Area Community Action Co-operative Ltd. uses our lower hall/kitchen area plus a room in the lower level for their Community Kitchens program twice a week. They organize the Good Food Box Program from there too.

NEECIP Wee Ones Workshops are held once a week in the lower hall.

The Highland Dance Group is using our lower hall for practices.

The Tisdale Men's Choir practices weekly in the sanctuary.

The Tisdale Arts Council meets in the Runicman Room during the winter months. These are all worthwhile groups and in need of space, support and are subsidized by St. Paul's congregation.

North East Women's Shelter in Melfort is an ongoing project for us with donations of bedding, toys, and personal items etc.

A financial donation was made to the surviving child of the murdered Goslyn family this summer.

Congregation members donate to **The United Church Mission and Service Fund** which helps people in many provinces in Canada as well as around the world. **We are holding a Fundraiser on Nov. 7th, 2015 to assist Nepal following the Earthquake there.**

Food/Cash donations for the Tisdale Food Bank are collected each month. Volunteers from our congregation help on rotation at the Food Bank and also with the **Salvation Army Kettle** at Christmas time.

Our donations were able to help supply some backpacks for local school children this fall.

We give yearly financial support to **St. Andrew's College** which educates people for ministry in our congregations.

Bridging Waters Youth Group (Nipawin Pastoral Charge) travelled to Mexico where they helped build a House for Humanity and we gave a donation to help them with their expenses. Some of the group came to Tisdale afterwards to lead a service here at St. Paul's and tell us about their experiences. They brought an evergreen tree for us to plant here in Tisdale.

Each year we have had a Camping Sunday service, the proceeds from the "Tuck Shop" are sent to our **United Church Camp Tapawingo at Candle Lake.**

5 couples were married this year in St. Paul's. (Some were non-members)

The UCW (United Church Women) hold 2 Rummage Sales each year with help from the general congregation members. **(Over \$5,000 was realized from the 2 Sales this year).** They also donate to the **Tisdale Dialysis Unit, Camp Tapawingo, Calling Lakes Centre, St. Andrew's College and Bursary, North East Outreach & Support Services, Tisdale and Area Community Action Cooperative Ltd. and North East Early Childhood** as well as numerous other projects.

The Fall Supper is another event that requires a big group of dedicated people to organize and put on. Two years ago we had no one come forward to organize the Fall Supper. We are very thankful to those that have come forward to do it this year!!

Members of our congregation faithfully **visit shut-ins and Nursing Home Residents** and **our minister visits at the Hospital** when requested.

As is the case with many small rural churches, St. Paul's struggles with declining membership, demographic aging and reduced financial contributions. Our hope is to engage a full time minister in the coming year that would be part of our community and provide continuity to our future work. The possibility of closure is very real which would be a loss not only for our congregation members but also for Tisdale Community.

From Sharon's Desk Sept. 2015

Fall is here, a beautiful season on the prairie, today the sun is warm and a warm wind blows. It is a good day for harvest.

I have enjoyed my time with you, and there is about eight months left of our two year interim. We have a workshop coming up on October 24th regarding how to manage conflict that grows out of conversation around change, or any other church topic that might be controversial. We will be involved in a Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), and we have a committee in place to do that work. Our circle conversations have been very useful to establish where we are at, and people who attend have an opportunity to express what they think. We just had a circle on September 20th, and 16 people attended.

In the time we have left together, I look forward to being with you as we do the end work of this interim ministry.

Peace to you as you enjoy this abundant time on the prairie.

Sharon Ferguson-Hood.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Greetings to everyone!

This has been our busiest year on record with 11 funeral luncheons being served to date - \$4015.00. We had our last Birthday tea & Entertainment at Sasko Park Lodge Jan. 21/15 and our last World Day of Prayer Service there before closure Mar. 17/15.

Mar. 25/15 – Lenten Soup & Sand. with Rev. Sharon on Worship – 140 attended and UCW Lunch earned \$312.00.

Presbyterial mtg. on Apr. 25/15 at Shellbrook – Ellen & Edith attended - Came home in worst storm ever. 2016 Presbyterial will be hosted by Tisdale UCW.

Spring Tea & Bake Sale May 2/15 - \$1045.50 – attendance – 81.

The Spring Rummage Sale brought in \$2439.65 and the Fall Rummage Sale netted \$3525.80. Good work everyone. UCW appreciates all the help we get from men, women & students (Cheyanna Kidd & Keith Gustafson). We couldn't do this heavy lifting without your dedicated help. Thanks for all donations. We really missed having Evelyn Smith's help this year as she passed away Aug. 26/15. She was a dedicated worker and tried hard to keep everything tidy and put in the right place.

From the rummage sale we were able to contribute 100 items for prizes for Newmarket Place Bingos – blankets to NEOSS Women's Shelter along with small bath items (shampoos, lotions etc.). – 1 doz. Matching coffee cups for church kitchen – rags for "York's Welding" donation (\$20.00) – McKague ladies got 2 car loads of clothing and rummage for their coming sale Oct. 3/15 – Salvation Army Thrift Store took the remaining rummage.

UCW is Changing - at our Pot Luck Supper Mtg. Sept 23/15 we amalgamated units 7 & 9 into General UCW so we are just UCW now – 11 ladies attended along with our guest Rev. Sharon. We still have our UCW executive in place except our secretary Mary Blacklaws resigned (due to health issues). Thanks Mary for all your work, we will miss you. Betty Stoker will be acting secretary until elections in Jan. 2016. Marilyn Thompson is our Newmarket Place Rep.

UCW will meet on the 4th Wed. of each month at 2 pm. Next meeting – Oct. 28/15 @ 2pm in the Runciman Room upstairs.

Submitted by Edith Dahl, President

Something to Think About:

If you think you're too small to make a difference, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room. *Lao Tzu* (1001 Ways to Confidence).

Spiritual strength is built just the same way as physical strength is: slowly, and by exercising the right muscles time and time again. (1001 Ways to Empowerment)

The happiness of life is made up of minute fractions – the little, soon forgotten charities of a kiss or a smile, a kind look or heartfelt compliment. *Samuel Taylor Coleridge*

Coming Events for Fall and Winter 2015/16

Sun. Oct. 4th – Pulpit Supply -Rev. Charles McKenzie -World Wide Communion/Food Bank/
Pot Luck Lunch

Thurs. Oct. 8th – Decorating the Church for Thanksgiving – 4pm. If you have items that are
Thanksgiving related please bring them to the office before Oct. 8th. Please come and help.

Sun. Oct. 11th – Pulpit Supply – Darlene Wilson – Thanksgiving

Sat. Oct. 17th – Schell/Buckle Wedding

Sun. Oct 18th – Sharon

Sun. Oct. 18th - FALL SUPPER at the Rec. Plex – 4:30 pm to 6 pm

Tues. Oct. 20th – Board Meeting – 7pm

Sat. Oct. 24th – **Conflict Resolution Workshop with Linda Anderson – 9:30am to 3:30pm**

(more info on next page)

Sun. Oct. 25th - Sharon

Tues. Oct. 27th – Women's Fellowship meeting – 7:30pm

Wed. Oct. 28th – UCW Meeting – 2pm

Thurs. Oct. 29th – Book Study – 7 pm – Runciman Room

Sun. Nov. 1st – Sharon - Dedication of the new Screen and Laptop that were purchased with
funds from the Memorial Fund - receiving a person that transferred - Potluck Lunch following
the service/ Food Bank

Wed. Nov. 4th - Worship Committee Meeting – 7 pm

**Sat. Nov. 7th, 2015 - NEPAL FUNDRAISER SOCIAL — 7 pm to 9:30 pm - Sponsored by
St. Paul's Women's Fellowship Group**

Sun. Nov. 8th – Sharon

Sun. Nov. 15th – Sharon

Sun. Nov. 22nd – Pulpit Supply – Judy Krantz

Thurs. Nov. 26th – Book Study – 7 pm – Runciman Room

Sun. Nov. 29th – Sharon – **Beginning of Advent – “Lessons & Carols” with special music** –
Maurice Taylor/Bernice McCosh - Hanging of the Greens after the service

Sat. Dec. 5th - ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA & BAKE SALE – 2 pm – 4 pm

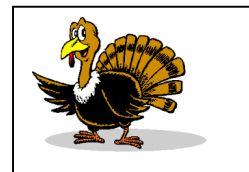
Donations of Baking are Welcome.

Sun. Dec. 6th – Sharon – Communion - Potluck Lunch/Food Bank

Sun. Dec. 13th – Sharon

Sun. Dec. 20th – Sharon

Thurs. Dec. 24th – **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – 7 pm**



No service on Dec. 27th.

Sharon Ferguson-Hood will be away from Sept. 25th until Oct. 16th.

There will be more Circle Conversations in the next 8 months. Please call 306 873 2424 for
information.

Sun. Oct. 18th – Fall Supper - You will be phoned (if you haven't signed up already) for food or a donation to help purchase turkeys and for helping at the fall supper. Donations for the fall supper can be mailed to Box 116.
(We still have pie plates, bowls from the previous suppers and they will be available at the Rec Plex).

Families With Children!!!! If you would like there to be a Sunday School this year and you can help out please Contact The Church Office at 873 2424!!!! We can only provide Sunday School if there are people that are willing to give some of their time and talent!!

UCW MEETINGS—The two units have amalgamated and welcome any people that would like to come and enjoy a time of fellowship. UCW meetings are the 4th Weds. of the month at 2pm in the Runciman Room). Please consider this your invitation!

Reminder!

Conflict Resolution Workshop with Linda Anderson

- Working towards effective truthful communication and dealing with the natural conflict of diverse ideas that will result from it.

9:30am until 3:30pm – lunch will be provided

Sign- up sheet in the foyer.

Everyone is encouraged to attend.

NOTE!! There is a sign-up sheet on the counter in the Foyer for the Book Study 2015.

Thurs. Oct. 29th – The Living by Annie Dillard

Thurs. Nov. 26th – Ada Blackjack by Jennifer Niven

Everyone is responsible for obtaining their own books.

More information is on the Bulletin Board.

If you need a ride to Sunday Services please contact the church office at 306 873 2424 or Dennis Scutchings at 306 873 5397.

Please remember to acknowledge the congregational letter that was sent out in April requesting ongoing support for St. Paul's and its Ministry. PAR is a good way of helping out when you can't make it to church on Sunday.

Note!!! – The WEE ONES WORKSHOPS are in St. Paul's lower hall on Wed. mornings 9am to 10am for babies to 18 months and then followed by the toddlers group 10 am – 11am - and will continue until April 2016

Wednesdays - The Highland Dance Group meets in the Lower Hall from 4pm until 8pm



Save The Date!! **NEPAL FUNDRAISER SOCIAL** – Sat. Nov. 7th, 2015 -
7 pm to 9:30 pm - Sponsored by St. Paul's Women's Fellowship Group.

The Evening will include a Silent Auction with items from Nepal plus

Baked goods and Nepali Bears.

Wine, Refreshments and Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

All proceeds will go to the '3 Sisters Trekking Company' in Pokhara, Nepal.

(3 Sisters Trekking Company provides Education to young women from the region and also negotiates Fair Wages and Fair Weights for guides and porters.)

Tim Shire updates St. Paul's website with Sharon's sermons etc.– www.ftlcomm.com/stpauls/
Our phone number is 306-873-2424 and our email address is stpaulsu@sasktel.net. Office hours
are Tues., Wed. and Thurs. mornings 9 am to 12 noon. Our Box # is 116.

If you provide us with your email address you would be receiving announcements of importance during the time between newsletters!!!

Please help us keep you informed of what is happening @ St. Paul's !!!

If you have any comments or concerns please call the church office at 306 873 2424

Upcoming in 2016

Sun. Feb. 1st – St. Andrews College Sunday -soup and sandwich lunch with donations going to St. Andrews College.

Communion Dates – 1st Sunday of Lent - Sun. Feb. 14, 2016

Maunday Thurs. Mar. 24, 2016

Pentecost Sun. May 15, 2016