

St. Paul's Post

MINISTRIES
Special Issue
September 2017

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Message from the Rector

In today's world, vibrant churches have something more to offer than baptisms, weddings and funerals. They offer ministries that are vital to both the congregation and the surrounding community.

It always astounds me how many ministries take place in and through this parish that benefit both those who call St. Paul's their spiritual home and folks in the surrounding community and beyond.

Thank you to our Shine Our Light group for putting together this newsletter that highlights many of these ministries. I hope it will inform and inspire us all.

And let us give, Glory to God, whose power working us can do infinitely more than we ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

Blessings, pat +



At St. Paul's we look at our call to serve in three ways.

Our rally cry, Come In, Grow in Christ and Reach Out shapes the way we think about our activities

come in

We come together to worship in God's presence.
We make our church an inviting and loving place; an island of respite from the distractions and cares of the world.

Worship Ministries

Altar Guild members dedicate time to make our worship space beautiful for day-to-day use as well as special events. They polish brass, arrange flowers and banners, launder altar linens, prepare the altar for the Eucharist and clean up afterwards.

A Word from the Shine Our Light group

This issue of *The Post* is intended to refresh our memories about the many ministries at St. Paul's. As you read through this Newsletter, consider all you presently do and where you might choose to serve.

We are branches on the vine (John 15:5) and our Saviour's hands and feet in the world (1 Corinthians 12:2)

If you feel that you are being called to Shine Your Light in any

of these ministries, please talk to Rev Pat or one of the Wardens. Sometimes God's Spirit leads us in a new direction; suggestions are always welcome.

Bob Bassett

Karen Luyendyk

Michael Mavis

Deane Zeeman

Greeters welcome everyone as they arrive for worship services. They provide books and bulletins and make sure everyone is comfortably seated. The greeters represent all of us by bringing forward our offering of bread, wine, prayer and money.

Intercessors prepare and lead the 'Prayers of the People'. They include prayers on behalf of our church community in our worship service and help to maintain the vitality and relevance of our prayers.

Lay Administrators of the Chalice assist at the Eucharist; they are appointed at Vestry as recommended by the parish priest.

Readers are responsible for reading the appointed Scriptures aloud at our worship services.

Servers assist the priest at the altar and may carry the cross in procession.

The Choir and Praise Team provide leadership through music on Sundays as well as for special services including: Evensong, Christmas, Easter, Funerals and the Blessing of the Pets.

Counters attend to the detailed work of counting, recording, and preparing each Sunday's offering for deposit at the bank.

grow in Christ

We grow in faith in God, in our understanding of Jesus' call to us and in our response to that call.

We share experiences, study Scripture, pray and learn to live in the knowledge and love of God.

Prayer Circle members pray regularly for all needs brought to the group. The confidentiality of prayer requests is carefully maintained.

A Library in the Parish Hall provides a variety of books, videos and audio resources on aspects of faith and spirituality.

St Paul's Post newsletter keeps us regularly informed about life in our faith community. Submissions are always welcome!

Opportunities for Growth

Adult Spiritual Development sessions are an opportunity to study together and deepen our faith. They are usually held Monday or Tuesday evenings September to June.

Cursillo is a short course on Christianity, sponsored by the Diocese. A number of people within St. Paul's have been on a Cursillo Weekend and would love to tell you more.

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a 4-year course that includes Old and New Testaments, Church history past and current issues and is designed to help people identify and develop their own area of lay ministry.

Open Table is a simple pot luck supper the first Wednesday of the month September through

June in the Parish Hall. It is a safe space for people of any faith to freely and respectfully discuss topics chosen by the group.

Gospel Discussions, led by Rev. Pat over coffee on winter Wednesday mornings, focus on the Gospel for the coming Sunday and are followed by sharing the Eucharist.

Christian Meditation is practiced Wednesday afternoons through the winter. Sessions follow a simple format with readings from various faith traditions to help develop mindfulness.

reach out

Empowered by the Holy Spirit we go out into the world, to spread the good news of God's unconditional love and healing made known to us in Jesus. In word and deed, and with respect, we strive to care for our neighbour and live in harmony with creation.

A Place to Go for coffee and conversation can be found in the Parish Hall Tuesday mornings the Rectory from September through June.

Almonte and District High School Breakfast Program volunteers from St Paul's and other organizations prepare nutritious Thunder Muffins to feed any student who wants to be fed, regardless of need, without charge.

Almonte Satellite Food Cupboard is open at St. Paul's Tuesday afternoons as an extension of the Lanark County Food Bank for clients who have registered with the Food Bank in Carleton Place but who live in Almonte.

Pastoral Care volunteers are trained to visit parishioners who are shut-in at home or living in local nursing homes or other forms of long term care.

We Reach Out to Others

The **Centre for Creative Living** is a spiritual but not religious project aiming to benefit the whole community. We draw upon the talents of people engaged in creative activities to mentor practice circles in a contemplative way and to offer workshops for those interested in developing their skills further.

See the [CFCL website](#) for details.

Mississippi Mills All My Relations is a concerned group of local community members who recognize that we have a responsibility to help restore what was once a relationship of trust and friendship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples in our country.



Mission Partners. One of the ways we share the Good News of Jesus Christ is by creating partnerships to address the needs of our neighbours here in Almonte and around the world.

St. Paul's church supports the following ministries, by faithful prayer, offerings and occasional fundraising:

LOCALLY

- Our parish priest uses **Crisis Fund** donations to respond to emergency needs of people in our parish community.
- **The Hub Hospice** provides palliative care to terminally ill clients in Mississippi Mills.
- **The Hunger Stop** –Lanark County Food Bank: Based in Carleton Place. provides safe and nutritional food assistance to persons in need.
- **Lanark County Interval House** supports women and their children who have experienced abuse and gender based violence
- **Local Farm Support** provides assistance to Lanark County farm families in times of financial or family stress.
- **Ottawa Inner City Ministries** is a Christian interdenominational charitable organization serving homeless people in downtown Ottawa.

IN CANADA

- **Pikangikum Water Project** provides financial support to Indigenous peoples in a northern Ontario community to address the water needs of 400+ homes without clean water or waste water removal.

- **Bales for the North** sends new clothes, blankets and other items to a church in Northern Canada for distribution. It is sponsored by the national Anglican Church Women (ACW).

AND ACROSS THE WORLD

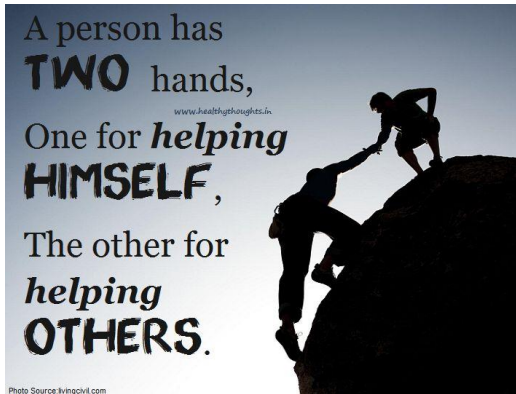
- **Costa Rica** – Community Access: improving technology infrastructure and access in Central America.
- **Honduras** – Casita Copán, a home away from home for children at risk.
- **Madagascar** – Akany Famonjena orphanage and the Akany Tafita Centre for street children.
- **Nicaragua** – School Box builds schools and provides school to improve educational opportunities for children.
- **Peru** – Vidas Mission is a medical centre, school and mission for indigenous peoples.
- **Domestically and Globally** – The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) is the Anglican Church in Canada's response for emergency relief, refugees, development, and justice.

Ecumenically:

- We offer a summer **Vacation Bible School** in collaboration with Almonte United Church.
- St. Paul's reaches out to the Almonte community in times of need by providing **Funeral Services** and hospitality at funeral receptions to anyone who asks.
- We join Holy Name of Mary Roman Catholic Church and the Almonte United Church for **Lenten services** followed by fellowship over lunch
- We walk **The Way of the Cross** on Good Friday with Christians from other denominations, stopping at various Almonte churches.
- We participate in Almonte's **World Day of Prayer**.
- St. Paul's is one of several Almonte churches contributing to monthly **Community Friendship Luncheons**.



Every church relies on committed volunteers who help out when needed. Some of the many St. Paul's **Helper Ministries** that depend on these volunteers are: the semi-annual Road Clean-up, preparing food or setting up tents or tables for celebrations or funeral receptions, decorating the hall or the church for special events, and cleaning the church grounds or cemetery.



KINDNESS by *Brian Maclaren*

Christ has no body here, but ours
No hands, no feet here on Earth but ours
Ours are the eyes through which he looks
-- on this world, with kindness.

Ours are the hands through which he works

Ours are the feet on which he moves,
Ours are the voices through which he speaks
-- to this world, with kindness.

Through our smile, our touch, our listening ears,
Embodied in us,
Jesus is living here.
So let us [minister] now
Filled with the Spirit
Going into the World
-- with Kindness.

REMINDER

Worshipping Together Pilot Project
Our pilot project will begin on
September 3 at 10:30 a.m.

Thanks to the commitment and efforts of the Combined Service Worship Committee (Rev. Pat, Matthew Bassett, Jim Hugesson, Wendy Shaw, Bob Mosher, and Deane Zeeman).

You can find the Sunday schedule for the pilot period on our Web site [HERE](#):

(www.stpaulsalmonite.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Combined-Services-Fall-2017.pdf)



We are thankful to everyone who offers their skills, efforts, prayers and hearts to St Paul's Parish Ministries.