

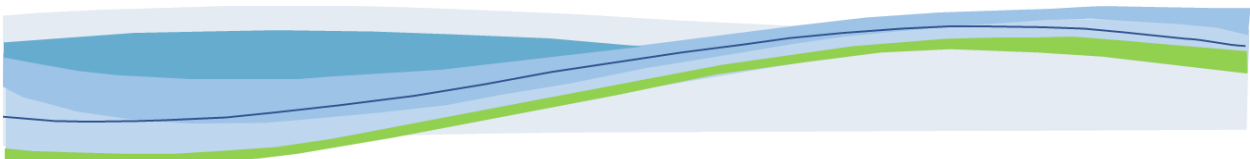
# *St Paul's United Church*

## **ANNUAL REPORT for year 2022**



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Sidney, BC V8L 2G3

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October 2022



*Fun and frivolity at the Halloween party!*



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### **See Notice Board in the Fellowship Hall for the Following Reports:**

George Pringle Memorial Camp Society, Our Place Society, The United Church Ministry at UVic, and Gorge View Society

*Report updated 9 February 2023 to amend minor corrections.*

## CONSTITUTION OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

### **(“THE MANUAL”, United Church of Canada, Articles 110, 114)**

110. The members of a Pastoral Charge or congregation shall meet annually, and more frequently if they deem it advisable. This meeting shall be held as early as possible after the last day of December.
114. The annual meeting shall receive the annual reports, hold elections, and transact any other business regularly brought before it, except the question of a change in pastoral relationship unless it has been duly specified in the notice calling the meeting. It is recommended that the annual report be printed and circulated among the members of the Pastoral Charge or congregation prior to the meeting.

### **Entitlement to Vote:**

THE MANUAL: Article 113.

The members of a congregation who are entitled to vote at all meetings are persons in full membership, whose names are on the roll of the congregation. With the consent of these, Adherents who contribute regularly to the support of the congregation may vote on Temporal Matters.

***The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place following lunch on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2023.***

### **Entitlement to Vote:**

***THE MANUAL: Article 113.***

The members of a congregation who are entitled to vote at all meetings are persons in full membership, whose names are on the roll of the congregation. With the consent of these, Adherents who contribute regularly to the support of the congregation may vote on Temporal Matters.

**ST PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**held via Zoom at 1:00 pm on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

**Present:**

- |                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Audrey Ash             | 15. Dale MacEwan           |
| 2. Rev Suzanna Bates      | 16. Esther Miller          |
| 3. Judy Bicknell          | 17. Hazel Phillips         |
| 4. Nicole Bottles         | 18. Sharon Prindle-Collins |
| 5. Elizabeth Brown-Shaw   | 19. Angela Rolfe           |
| 6. Isobel Bussey (phone)  | 20. Keith Rolfe            |
| 7. Grace Champagne        | 21. Rev Hilde Seal, Guest  |
| 8. Mark Collins           | 22. Sheryl Simpson         |
| 9. Susanne Craig          | 23. Isobel Skolrood        |
| 10. Elizabeth Dow         | 24. Ken Summers            |
| 11. Connie Downey (phone) | 25. Marilyn Summers        |
| 12. Brian Dowse           | 26. Marjorie Tate          |
| 13. Anna Hudson           | 27. Jennifer Viljoen       |
| 14. Russ Hudson           | 28. Dorothy Wiebe, Chair   |

There were 28 persons present at the meeting.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair of Council Dorothy Wiebe called the annual congregational meeting to order at 1:05 pm and welcomed guest Rev Hilde Seal. Chair Dorothy then asked Rev Suzanna Bates to lead us in prayer.

**2. OPENING WORSHIP**

Rev Suzanna Bates expressed regret that we could not meet in person in the sanctuary and hoped the next meetings can be held with everyone in the same physical space. Rev Bates then offered a prayer and lit a candle, asking that we be open to the calling of the Spirit.

Rev Bates asked us to remember the names of all who could not be here today and then read out the names (listed on p.28) of those who had died during 2021, noting they should be remembered during a moment of silence with gratitude, sadness and joy. She finished with another prayer for these people.

Rev Bates shared a portion of her report (p.23) and displayed onscreen a section of The Manual that referred to the responsibilities and purpose of the community of faith which is St Paul's, saying it reminds us of what our calling is. She read through the points listed and asked us to hold them in mind as we go through the reports of the past year.

Chair of Council Dorothy Wiebe thanked Rev Bates.

### 3. MOTION TO APPROVE CHAIR AND SECRETARY FOR THE MEETING

Chair Dorothy Wiebe asked for a motion from the floor to approve herself as Chair of the meeting and Marjorie Tate as Secretary of the meeting.

***MOTION: (M/S Jennifer Viljoen/Carol Smith) that, Dorothy Wiebe be approved as Chair, and that Marjorie Tate be approved as Secretary of this Annual Meeting. CARRIED.***

### 4. ENTITLEMENT TO VOTE

Chair Dorothy Wiebe asked for a motion from the floor for full members to give permission for adherents of the congregation to vote during the course of this meeting.

***MOTION: (M/S Angela Rolfe/Carol Smith) that, the Full Members of St Paul's United Church, here present at this meeting of St Paul's congregation, grant voting privileges during the course of this meeting, to those Adherents who contribute regularly to the support of the church. CARRIED.***

### 5. REGRETS

Chair Dorothy noted that no notices of regrets had been received.

It was noted from the floor that Tony Merry and Bhree Young were unable to attend.

### 6. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Dorothy ascertained that everyone had reviewed the Agenda. The following change was made to the Agenda:

- Under 9. NEW BUSINESS, after point (a), Add: "A note from the Chair of the Amalgamation Committee".

***MOTION: (M/S Keith Rolfe/Audrey Ash) that, the Agenda be adopted as amended. CARRIED.***

### 7. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS & BUSINESS ARISING

Chair Dorothy ascertained that everyone had reviewed the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting. She noted the minutes of all of the congregational meetings held in 2021 are printed in the Annual Report and had been approved.

### 8. RECEIVING THE ANNUAL REPORTS

Chair Dorothy noted that the reports were in the Annual Report and if any of the report writers wanted to add anything, they could do so. She announced that anyone could comment or ask a question.

- a) **CHAIR OF COUNCIL** (p. 20) – Chair Dorothy added that she has been very blessed by a supportive and hardworking council and gave special thanks to Rev Suzanna Bates who has patiently worked with her while she learned a new job.
- b) **MINISTER'S REPORT** (p. 22) – Rev Bates noted it was a pretty difficult year and invited us to offer all that happened last year to be placed into God's compassionate hands. May we know that all is safe in God's hands.
- c) **MUSIC DIRECTOR** (p. 24)

- d) **MINISTRY & PERSONNEL** (p. 26) – Ken Summers noted that Chair Nancy Coutts is away on holiday and that he had nothing to add to the report.
- e) **PASTORAL CARE & LINK TEAM** (p. 27)
- f) **LIBRARY** (p. 30) – Head Librarian Sheryl Simpson noted that the committee members are listed but that Anne Thompson has since resigned from the library committee. Sheryl thanked Anne for all her help. Chair Dorothy said the library has been a lifesaver to her during this Covid time, and that this is the best library she has experienced in all the churches she has attended. Sheryl said that Maureen Godfrey was instrumental in setting up the library, and that Esther Miller had also done a lot of work.
- g) **RAVING READERS** (P. 31) – Chair Dorothy noted she is not responsible for the name of this group! It is open to new members up to a limit of 12 people (the maximum number of books lent by the local library to reading groups).
- h) **PROPERTY** (p.32) – ElizaBeth Mitchell is on a trip right now. She has done a wonderful job.
- i) **AMALGAMATION COMMITTEE REPORT** (p. 33)
- j) **PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL** (p. 34)
- k) **WORSHIP SUPPORT TEAM** (p. 35)
- l) **BOARD OF TRUSTEES** (p.36)
- m) **TREASURER'S REPORT** (p. 38) – Judy Bicknell said it has been a learning year for her taking on a job she had no experience of. She thanked Keith Rolfe for all his assistance, and Dale MacEwan for heading up the counting team. She is happy to answer any questions about the financial statements (p. 42 and 43).

Disappointment was expressed that the funds designated for buying and installing a projector were moved into General Funds and that this was a breach of trust. Treasurer Judy Bicknell noted the Trustees had been consulted and they said that funds will be made available when the decision is made to go ahead with further technology so that we will not be left with outdated equipment. Treasurer Judy noted our net loss was greater than that of the previous year and there were many contributing factors, including Covid.

Treasurer Judy noted that we now have no choice but to use the ADP system, but that it takes a lot of pressure off the Treasurer because it makes all the calculations re benefits, payments to UIC and so forth. The cost for this is now included with our banking costs (rather than with office administration) so it is more obvious.

Responding to a query, Treasurer Judy noted that the Library budget is approximately in the middle of the Expenses column, and will be included in that and will also be in the Budget.

***MOTION: (M/S Jennifer Viljoen/Isabelle Skolrood) that, the annual reports listed as items 8A through 8M be accepted as presented/amended. CARRIED.***



## 9. NEW BUSINESS

### a) Conversation on the Work of God – led by Rev Hilde Seal.

Chair Dorothy Wiebe introduced Rev Hilde Seal who reported she has met with 24 people to date. Her role is to listen to the voices and heart of this community and to reflect on what she hears. She has heard:

- Social gathering is very important; all love being together.
- We are an aging congregation, and lay leadership comprises elders who are tired.
- Support of Rev Bates by many, but at times family/life have taken priority over St Paul's.
- Our financial situation is critical.

Rev Seal will continue meeting with people over the next few weeks. Details on times/dates will be in the Friday newsletter. She will contact those who are not "on computer". Her final report will be on 27<sup>th</sup> March and then she will ask us to pray and listen to the Spirit.

Rev Seal then posed some other questions:

#### Q. How does this community of faith enhance your life?

A – Important to establish a faith community; it's a vehicle to establish connection with God; life would not feel complete without St Paul's; a great connection to people, music and faith; it's a learning experience with great spiritual development workshops; found such a welcome, friendliness, music and choir; actual interpersonal and collaborative work can only be with a community of faith; welcome, studies and music; sustained throughout life by Sunday worship with others; thanks to Rev Suzanna for her creativity.

#### Q – How does this community of faith enhance the lives of the local community?

A – Discussion groups have incorporated community members although this has been curtailed due to Covid; donations to the food bank; provides space for the Sidney Pre-school to meet; a lot offered prior to Covid and the community responded; formed partnerships like soup suppers for U Vic students, weekly bridge group; Covid has cut off activities and caused isolation; Library reported opening on Friday afternoons and had 11 non-church people sign up to borrow books; Covid has curtailed use of church by various groups, e.g. the bridge group have been meeting in homes but have been asking when they can return to the church hall; the hall could be rented to a day-care centre in future which would increase our income considerably; many community groups (Deep Cove Folk Group, fitness classes, Men's Breakfasts with lectures/presentations) used building prior to Covid and we could have been looking for other ways to use the church and attract the community if it hadn't been for Covid.

#### Q – Regarding the reports we have read and heard as well as the words read by Rev Suzanna from the UC Manual, what do we need as we continue to be a church in a new way reflecting on our responsibilities and purpose as a UC congregation?

A – To sell anything you must talk face to face with people; enthusiasm is sadly lacking; lots to do but need people to do it; need energy and enthusiasm; no evidence of passion for Outreach – if that doesn't exist then we are not doing the work of Christ and are not grounded in knowing that what we do matters which turns the church into a social club and



does not attract younger people with enthusiasm for such work; need to contact people who are not presently coming to St Paul's; need to make ourselves better known.

**Q - Is there anything missing to help us to continue to be a healthy community with strong relationships and mutual accountability?**

Rev Hilde suggested we may need some time to ponder this question and asked people to then pass their thoughts on to her or to Council. She will continue with the conversations, gather the information and then at the end of March reflect what she has heard. She thanked everyone for their participation.

Rev Bates suggested it might be helpful to ponder some questions from the Manual which she displayed on-screen. She noted that Rev Hilde had been invited to help us find the answer to the question, "Which way do we want to go?" Everyone must be talked to and included.

She suggested that during the rest of March we continue the conversation with Rev Hilde Seal and at the same time we urgently make strong inroads with the intent to amalgamate with Central Saanich United Church, part of which work must set a timeline for amalgamation (6-8 months? a year?) and roughly plan how the work will be done and who will do it. The work will sometimes be painful, frustrating and is about loss/grief/joy.

It was agreed to hold a face-to-face meeting in the sanctuary with the whole congregation where we will process the findings of our consultation with Hilde. On 27<sup>th</sup> March, during worship, Hilde will reflect the findings of her consultation to the congregation which will also have an opportunity to report.

By the congregational meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> March some work will already have been done by the Amalgamation Committee who will make their recommendations and have a rough plan. Then we can come to a decision where we wholeheartedly commit to our intent to (1) join with Central Saanich and have a timeline of the work, OR (2) decide to close St Paul's and disband, OR (3) intend to continue as an independent community (i.e., find a new plan). It was agreed to put a meeting date on the calendar.

**b) New item re Amalgamation Committee from Susanne Craig**

Susanne Craig and Ken Summers met with three members of Central Saanich UC last Wednesday. The feedback was very positive that they are very keen to amalgamate with us. Central Saanich already has experience of amalgamation. The next meeting is being planned in about ten days' time and it is hoped both church councils attend (without ministers attending). This is a preliminary meeting exploring the possibility of amalgamation and it is hoped there will be several meetings where our congregation can give input. It was agreed to call a meeting for 30<sup>th</sup> March by which time we will have received Rev Hilde's report as well as a report from the amalgamation team. An official vote on the intent to amalgamate will be held at this meeting.

**c) Budget for 2022 (p. 44)**

Treasurer Judy Bicknell presented the Budget for 2022 and spoke to it.

She noted Revenues were down about Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.). Direct Wages were also down. Trades and Subcontracts have risen (Rev Suzanna Bates will take her three-months sabbatical this summer) and we have included up to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.) to pay a replacement minister.

Expenses: Insurance rose over a Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.) due to the Canada-wide arson in church buildings; Office and Repairs & Maintenance were taken as approximate from last year's figures; Department Expenses (Library, Worship, Spiritual Development, etc) is not a lot of money to spend on programs within the church. Depreciation is not an expense but is the decrease in value of our furnishings in the church. The Net Loss predicts to be Forty-three Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$43,400.) We cannot maintain a loss of that amount, which points to the need to look at amalgamation.

***MOTION: (M/S Judy Bicknell/Keith Rolfe) that, the Budget for 2022 be accepted as presented. CARRIED.***

**d) United Church of Canada – PAR**

Treasurer Judy noted that St Paul's has had their PAR program with the Coast Capital Credit Union, however it would be advantageous for St Paul's to go on the United Church of Canada's own PAR system which can also be used for other banking. She noted It is a very good system and is also used by churches other than United Churches. It is also more convenient than the system at Coast Capital. The cost is very slightly more than we are paying at present and there is a start-up cost. She believes Central Saanich is on this system. Council passed this request last year but Judy was too busy learning her job to effect the change. She said a letter will be coming out soon to get this in place.

**e) Office Administrative Assistant**

The office has been closed for most of many months so that much of the office work has fallen on Rev Suzanna which is completely unfair when she has ministry work to do.

***MOTION: (M/S Marjorie Tate/Elizabeth Dow) that, St Paul's hires an Office Administrative Assistant for twelve (12) hours per week at a rate of Twenty-six Dollars (\$26.) per hour. CARRIED.***

**f) 2022 Appointments**

Chair Dorothy Wiebe noted that Ministry & Personnel should have four members. The Board of Trustees has two vacancies. Elizabeth Brown-Shaw will be the new Vice Chair of Council, and Marjorie Tate will replace Bhree Young as Council Secretary.

Chair Dorothy asked for nominations for the two positions on the Board of Trustees, particularly one with secretarial skills. No nominations were forthcoming. She then asked for a motion to appoint Elizabeth Brown-Shaw and Marjorie Tate.

***MOTION: (M/S Judy Bicknell/Audrey Ash) that Elizabeth Brown-Shaw be elected as Vice-Chair of Council and Marjorie Tate be elected as Secretary of Council. CARRIED.***

Chair Dorothy noted the Trustees must hold a meeting in the next week, elect the Chair and Secretary and appoint the Representative who should attend the next Council meeting.

It was noted that Ken Summers, who is already a member of M&P, has become the Chair of M&P, and that Marjorie Tate has become the Chair of the Worship Team.

Chair Dorothy expressed thanks to:

- Eileen McConville who has stepped down from Trustees after serving for a long term.
- Keith Rolfe who is resigning from the Trustees
- ElizaBeth Mitchell who is stepping down from M&P
- Bhree Young who is stepping down as Secretary of Council.

**g) Vote of Thanks**

Chair Dorothy expressed thanks to everyone who has done so much in the community of our church in so many ways and to the staff – Nicole, Meghan and Terrisa – who all contribute so much to the church.

She expressed appreciation for the hard work Rev Suzanna Bates does for us, saying we have been the beneficiaries of her creativity and have been so grateful for the many wonderful services she has provided.

She concluded that we are very thankful.

**10. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING – It was moved by Anna Hudson that the meeting be adjourned.**

**A motion to Adjourn was made by Anna Hudson at 3:25 pm.**

**11. CLOSING PRAYER – Rev Suzanna Bates thanked all who attended the meeting and thanked Rev Hilde Seal for all her hard work. She then gave a closing prayer.**

Respectfully Submitted

---

Marjorie Tate, Secretary

---

Dorothy Wiebe, Chair of Council

**ST PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH  
MINUTES OF A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
of St Paul's United Church  
held in the Sanctuary at 1:30 pm on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

<u>Present:</u> Audrey Ash	Mae Ball	Rev Suzanna Bates
Judy Bicknell	Claire Booth	Elizabeth Brown-Shaw
Isobel Bussey	Jocelyn Carter	Sharon Prindle-Collins
Rev Mark Collins	Nancy Coutts	Susanne Craig
Barbara Dignan	Connie Downey	Phyllis Forsyth
Trisha House	Anna Hudson	Russ Hudson
Rev Don Isner	Don Johnston	Barb Johnston
Elaine Juriet	Roger Lichtenwald	Dale MacEwan
Tony Merry	Rev Gail Miller (Regional Minister)	Esther Miller
ElizaBeth Mitchell	Carole Neeves	Hazel Phillips
Angela Rolfe	Keith Rolfe	Pat Schram
Rev Hilde Seal	Sheryl Simpson	Isabelle Skolrood
Carol Smith	Ken Summers	Marilyn Summers
Marjorie Tate	Terrisa Tate	Jennifer Viljoen
Dorothy Wiebe	Bhree Young	

(44 persons present)

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair of Council Dorothy Wiebe called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She asked Rev Suzanna Bates to open the meeting with prayer.
2. **OPENING PRAYER**– Rev Suzanna Bates offered an opening prayer.
3. **INTRODUCTION OF PANEL** – Chair Dorothy Wiebe introduced Regional Minister, Rev Gail Miller. She then introduced the members of the panel which comprised herself (Chair of Council), Elizabeth Brown-Shaw (Vice-Chair of Council), Susanne Craig (Chair of the Amalgamation Committee), Ken Summers (member of the Amalgamation Committee), Rev Suzanna Bates (Minister of St Paul's) and Rev Gail Miller (Regional Minister).  
The following motion was then made:

**MOTION: (M/S Carol Smith/Nancy Coutts) that, the members of the congregation allow the adherents of the congregation to vote. MOTION CARRIED.**

Chair Dorothy then called on Rev Suzanna Bates to reflect on the work done by Rev Hilde Seal in the preceding months.

4. **REFLECTIONS ON HILDE SEAL'S REPORT** – Rev Suzanna Bates noted that Rev Hilde Seal had been engaged to conduct some exercises with the congregation. While all congregation members had the opportunity to speak with her, only thirty-four (34) people did so. Rev Hilde Seal reflected these conversations to the congregation on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022.  
The questions Rev Suzanna Bates asked were:

- a) What did you hear Hilde say?
- b) Did you hear anything new?
- c) Did you disagree with something?
- d) How will hearing what you heard help you take the next steps that you must take.

A lively discussion ensued with the panel answering questions put to them from the congregation.

#### 5. PRESENTATION OF SLIDES

There followed a presentation of slides (attached), put together by Elizabeth Brown-Shaw and Steven Howell from Central Saanich United Church.

#### 6. MOTION

The following Motion was made:

***MOTION: Moved by Bhree Young, seconded by Judy Bicknell, that St Paul's United Church Council actively pursue an amalgamation with Central Saanich United Church. MOTION PASSED.***

Rev Gail Miller noted that when you agree to amalgamate, the Region can call surplus on assets. So it is in their hands, not ours, what happens to our property.

Another possible version that would negate any risk for Central Saanich UC is that we could make the recommendation to close St Paul's, to join Central Saanich CU or another church, and to take our property with us.

We will now approach Central Saanich UC as a council re amalgamation. If they accept then it will be brought to our congregation. If they say no, we will come back to our congregation to say what our next steps will be.

7. **CLOSING PRAYER** – Rev Suzanna Bates brought the meeting to a close with a prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marjorie Tate (Secretary)

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Dorothy Wiebe (Chair of Council)





## MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



Dear People of St. Paul's,

I am currently reading the Maisie Dobbs series of books set in Britain in the First and Second World War. Maisie is an investigator who solves crimes by applying psychology and an avid attention to detail. When she solves the crime and completes the investigation she does a 'final accounting' so she can emotionally and mentally 'close the file' on her case.

This annual report for the year 2022 is like our final accounting and then we'll close the file and approach 2023 with a fresh spirit and renewed vision. Please read it and digest all the good ministry being done by the people of St. Paul's.

I was appointed to St. Paul's in September on a part time basis as one initiative to help St. Paul's turn around their financial situation. Since coming the Council and I have accomplished a number of important activities:

- We secured the commitment of Rev. Bill Cantelon and Rev. Joan McMurtry to each preach once a month so our Sunday worship is planned and predictable.
- Thomas Andersen began as our church musician in September and is adding his considerable talents to enhance music in St. Paul's.
- We have secured a grant to allow us to purchase a new, updated AV system along with 3 camera for livestreaming our Sunday services. The installation of the equipment will take place the last week of January and livestreaming will begin as soon as possible after installation.
- We have heard the need for an LGBTQ2+ support group on the Peninsula and in December we began such a group with the excellent leadership of James Gardner.
- Equally we began a Senior's Art & Spirituality group to reach out into the community of Seniors in Sidney and were very lucky to enlist the services of Wendy Duffield as the program leader.
- The Council has augmented their communication with each other and with the congregation. Every month they have an informal donut time to discuss the 'big' issues confronting St. Paul's. As well, they have instituted a monthly after church chat with the congregation where questions go back and forth and everyone is free to ask whatever they wish.
- They have had a successful stewardship connection and a very lively Christmas Gift project which is another important step in turning around their financial situation.
- They have put the proposed absorption amalgamation with Central Saanich UC on the back burner until such time as we are organizationally and financially stable enough to freely choose the level of collaboration.
- Finally, the Council and I have chosen 3 goals to be achieved by mid-summer 2023. They are:
  - Become an Affirming Congregation
  - Secure their Financial future
  - Develop a solid Seniors program available to the community of Sidney.

These three goals will lead us into an important 2023 but now I am encroaching on material for next year's Annual Report from the Minister.

Let me end with saying a few things:

I am very pleased to be working here at St. Paul's and see tremendous potential for your future. Working with Wendy, Terrisa, Thomas, Bill, Joan and Meghan is a real treat and St. Paul's is well served by these talented folks.

You are blessed to be served by the hard working, good hearted, and willing members of Council and I am thrilled to work with them to build a strong, hope-filled, compassionate and creative community of faith here at St. Paul's in Sidney.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev Cheryl Black

## MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF COUNCIL

Greetings from your Council.

COUNCIL OF ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH elected February 25th, 2022

- Dorothy Wiebe, Chair
- Elizabeth Brown-Shaw, Vice Chair
- Marjorie Tate, Secretary
- Judy Bicknell, Treasurer
- Ken Summers, Chair of Ministry & Personnel
- Carol Smith, District Representative
- David Hempsall, Chair of Trustees
- Minister *Ex-officio*

Although the Council may be seen by many as an administrative group, it is far more in that it is responsible to give leadership for the spiritual health and wellbeing of the church. This year has been most challenging in respect to both aspects as we began the year coming out of Covid, with a small congregation — spaced and masked — grieving the losses of the previous two years, with a huge drop in givings and a growing deficit, without an office administrator, with an exhausted minister and a congregation fearful of losing our beloved church.

Coming out of this year, the change is so dramatic that we want to sing “Hallelujahs” all over the place! Under the guidance of wise leaders, inspired members of the congregation, diligent studiers of church renewal materials, and faithful committee workers, we are in a very different place today. I cannot express our gratitude adequately to Rev Gail Miller, our Regional Minister, and Rev Cheryl Black for their wise guidance during the Sabbatical period and for the leadership that Cheryl now provides as our part-time, but whole-hearted minister along with Rev Bill Cantelon and Rev Joan McMurtry.

Your council has been and is continuing to work on goals and possibilities for our future here in Sidney. In the following reports you will read about many of these projects and future directions.

*Dorothy Wiebe (Chair)*

## **REPORTS**

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Two of the major responsibilities of the Board of Trustees are:

- to ensure that fire and public liability insurance is adequate to protect the congregation's assets, and
- to be Trustees of the St Paul's United Church Memorial Endowment Fund and St Paul's Scholarship and Bursary Fund.

The Trustees held two meetings in 2022, on September 13<sup>th</sup> and November 7<sup>th</sup>.

In the September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting the trustees approved a transfer of Seventeen Thousand Dollars (\$17,000.00) from funds in the trust to St Paul's operating funds for the purposes of repaying loans made by members of the congregation.

In the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting we reviewed a letter from the United Church of Canada regarding their new Church insurance plan which offered substantial savings for property insurance. However, to complete the application would require a new property appraisal. The last property appraisal was done in 2017. The property is usually appraised every five years. The Trustees approved an expenditure to have a new appraisal done of the church property and building. The appraisal was completed in November at a cost of Twelve Hundred Ninety Dollars and Twenty-five Cents (\$1,290.25). The new appraised value is Three Million Forty-three Thousand Dollars (\$3,043,000.).

An application for a quote on the new United Church of Canada insurance program was sent in early December, indicating our insurance renewal date was January 1, 2023. We received an immediate reply that it would take 45 days to provide a quote. Because of this delay the church renewed the appraised value with Westland Insurance effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

As at the end of September 2022 the Memorial Endowment fund had Ninety-nine Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-nine Dollars and Seven Cents (\$99,589.07), and The Scholarship Bursary Fund had Thirteen Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-nine Dollars and Ninety-five Cents (\$13,279.95). At the time of this report I had not received the year-end statements.

#### Board of Trustees –

*Dave Hempsall (Chair)..... 1732 Colbourne Place, North Saanich, BC V8L 4W5*  
*Ken Clark..... 1673 Texada Terrace, North Saanich, BC V8L 6B1*  
*Barb Johnston..... 7767 Sandhill Lane, Saanichton, BC V8L 3P4*  
*Eli Mitchell..... 10128 Pleasant Street, Sidney, BC V8L 2X8*

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Please see pages 16 onwards.

## MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

We are blessed to have an excellent staff with Rev Cheryl Black assisting Council and the Congregation with her vast experience and direction. She is under contract to work 16 hours per week and that is a bargain!

Supporting Rev Cheryl, Council and the Congregation is our Administrative Secretary, Wendy Duffield, who is exceptional at her work with St Paul's. Wendy also has trained to be assistant Audio-Visual Operator, filling in for Terissa if she is sick or away.

Another valued member of our staff is Terrisa Tate who holds two positions at St Paul's. She is the Church Custodian and our Audio-Visual Operator. Terissa is very efficient at her work for St Paul's with her boundless energy!

We welcomed Thomas Andersen mid-year as our pianist and really appreciate his musical gift.

We have developed Job Descriptions for both Terissa and Wendy for each of their duties.

We give special thanks to Elizabeth Brown-Shaw who filled in for Terissa (Custodial) while Terissa was away on holidays. Elizabeth was operating under a Letter of Understanding from St Paul's.

Special thanks to our staff, Rev Cheryl, Wendy and Terissa, for guiding us through this past year! Good Job Ladies!

Also, a big thanks to Nancy Coutts and Audrey Ash for filling in and representing M&P since early November and for their support throughout the year.

### Members:

*Ken Summers (Chair), Nancy Coutts, Audrey Ash*

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE (Pacific Mountain Region)

The highlight of last year was the appointment of our own nominee, Rev Carmen Lansdowne, as the Moderator of the United Church of Canada. She is the first indigenous woman to this position. The theme for this year's General Council was: Who do you say that I am.

Along with this great appointment came the Vision and Call to Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, and Daring Justice. A vision and a call for St. Paul's as we venture forward through our new path.

Our own Pacific Mountain Regional General Meeting was held in Prince George June 9-12, either in person or via Zoom, unfortunately I did not attend because of prior a commitment.

Regional is still actively involved in:

- Camp Spirit Day camps for children last year hosted by Oak Bay United Church at a cost of \$120-\$150.
- Naramata Retreats, both in person and on-line
- Conversations with authors, theologians or guest speakers on varied subjects, either in person or Zoom
- not to forget the many and varied Podcasts, like Reconciliation Reading Series.



Our Executive Minister, Rev Treena Duncan is taking a Sabbatical, (she sends correspondence to us Regional Reps on the happenings in our Region and beyond). She is taking a five-course series, leading to certification for not-for-profit executive directors. She returns in April.

This year the annual meeting is June 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>. Place yet to be determined.

Anyone interested in more information on regional activities or events please don't hesitate to ask me.

*Carol Smith*  
*Regional Representative*

## **PASTORAL CARE/LINK TEAM**

The Pastoral Care/Link Team offers support to the ministry team by visiting congregation members in person, by phone calls and sending cards offering our message of care to our church family. Our goal is to make St Paul's a warm, welcoming and caring community. To accomplish this our aim is to:

- Warmly welcome newcomers
- Visit congregation members by phone call, card, email or personal visit
- Maintain a list of shut-ins and folks no longer able to attend regularly
- Send care cards when appropriate
- Act as ears and eyes to inform the minister of those needing a visit and/or prayers
- Assist in maintenance of phone directory and photo directory
- Maintain the Official Membership Roll
- Organize a gathering annually for newcomers (may coincide with membership Sunday)
- Sponsorship of Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Prepare and deliver Christmas gift to shut-ins
- Arrange for name tags for new members
- Offer "Welcome to St Paul's" pamphlet, photo directory, phone directory, and offer arrangement of offering envelopes/PAR to newcomers

Although we were once more able to meet in person for worship, following the restrictions imposed as a result of Covid 19, many of our family were not yet feeling comfortable about returning to regular attendance. Our connections with these people have been primarily through cards, emails and phone calls. Lindy Deas has been kept busy sending care cards, on our behalf, to comfort people in their illness and to family members of our folk who have died in 2022. We thank Lindy for carrying on this important part of pastoral care.

We were able to take a Christmas remembrance to 17 of our shut-ins this year. It has been a difficult time for so many and we want them to know they are not forgotten.



The prayer shawl ministry was one of the positive things to record for 2022 as 36 shawls were given out, including 6 to Saanich Peninsula Hospital Long Care Unit and 6 to Rest Haven Lodge, ready to offer comfort in a new forever home.

Pastoral Care/Link Team Members:

*Grace Champagne, Lindy Deas, Carolle Hagen, Lori Hudson-Fish, Elizabeth Kugyelka, Gail Latta, Hazel Phillips, Janet Miller, Ann Simpson, Isabelle Skolrood.*

- **IN MEMORIAM**

During the year 2022:            **September 1** -    **Jean Spence**  
   **December 2** -    **Bill Young**

- **PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY**

Over the Summer when the Council was feeling concern about the future direction of St Paul's, the idea of forming a small group of people who would pray for the Council was presented. Over the next few months this group morphed into a Prayer Chain Ministry.

When a concern arises, whether it be a health issue, a death, or any other challenge that presents itself within St Paul's family or in the community, this is relayed to the Prayer Chain Team for their prayerful reflection.

If you would like to be a part of this important part of St Paul's life, or if you have a concern that you would like prayers for, please feel free to contact any member of the Clergy Team or any member of the Prayer Chain Team.

Team members:

*Cheryl Black, Elizabeth Brown-Shaw, Lindy Deas, Don Isner, Lynn MacArthur, MaryAnn Romeril, Hazel Phillips, Terrisa Tate, Jennifer Viljoen, Dorothy Wiebe*

- **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

St Paul's Prayer Shawl Group was formed in 2007 as an opportunity for those who wish to utilize their knitting and crocheting skills as a way of offering comfort and pleasure to members of our congregation and beyond. Upon completion, a final blessing, as a special portion of the Sunday worship service, is offered before the shawl is sent on its way. Since 2007, 339 shawls have been passed along for a variety of reasons, mostly for illness or bereavement, but some to celebrate a special occasion.

A tag, including care instructions, is attached to each shawl indicating they are prayerfully made by members of St Paul's.

We are always ready to welcome you if your knitting/crocheting fingers are itching to be busy in such a project. We can provide yarn, needles/hooks and patterns if needed.

A brief quote from a recent recipient: "*Oh, that prayer shawl is wonderful ... I wrapped myself in it after dinner last night and even the colour blends so beautifully with my robe! THANK YOU again for your thoughtfulness...*"

If you know someone who might be comforted and encouraged by the receipt of a shawl please see Rev Cheryl, or Hazel Phillips.

*Hazel Phillips*

## **FAITH DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

- ***Sunday Morning Discussion Group***

This group met Sunday mornings at 9am to discuss current articles in the United Church "Broadview" magazine or articles in newspapers that may impact our lives, or our church. We resumed meeting post-covid in April 2022. Participants were encouraged to suggest topics for discussion. Topics to be discussed were printed in the Friday newsletter.

Registration is not required, all are welcome! Bring your beverage of choice and we provide something tasty!

Some topics discussed were:

May 1, 2022: *Broadview Magazine*, Dec. 2021: *Curbing Your Consumerism*  
Dec. 11, 2022: *Globe & Mail*, Nov. 12, 2022: *How a small community in Nepal grew back its forests*

- ***Friday Morning Discussion Group***

This group resumed post-covid September 30, 2022 with a video-based study led by Dorothy Wiebe, Judy Bicknell and Sheryl Simpson. Meeting in the lounge from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon with registration required, people were asked to bring their own refreshments, if they wished.

In 2019 the Faith Development group participated in a study called "Manna and Mercy" which included short teaching lesson videos by a South African pastor, Alan Storey. There were 45 short videos included in the study and only 12 were viewed at that time, so we took the opportunity to view others in what we called Manna and Mercy Video Discussion Group. We met for six sessions, listening to Alan's views, and enjoying the discussions and ideas of the members of the group in response. The Faith Development Group is hoping to have a study to offer to the congregation in late winter.

*Judy Bicknell*  
*Sheryl Simpson*

## ST PAUL'S LIBRARY COMMITTEE

### 2022 Statistics

Circulation: 290 (2021: 296)  
 Friday Takeout, January 7-December 30, 2022: 168  
 Sundays, February 20-December 18, 2022: 122  
 Purchases: 15 Adult books  
 Donations: 71 Adult books, 1 Children's book



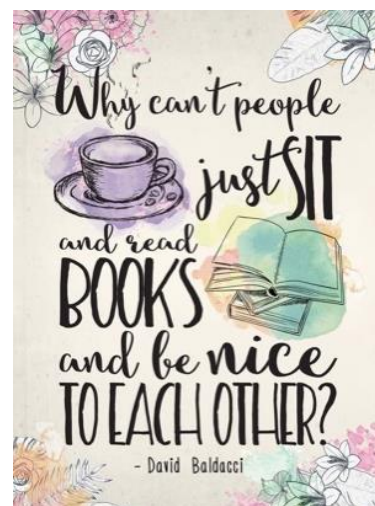
Covid restrictions had the church closed until February 20, 2022, but Friday Takeout was provided starting January 7, 2022. Friday Takeout hours were lengthened from 12:00- 2:00 pm. "Reading Suggestions" replaced our "Takeout Suggestions" title with list number 95, these weekly lists are available through the Friday newsletter and also on the church website. "NEW ITEMS IN YOUR CHURCH LIBRARY" lists were produced again and posted on the library bulletin board.

In February whilst visiting with Anne Thompson, Sheryl accepted Anne's resignation from St. Paul's United Church Library Committee. We thank Anne for her many years of volunteering with the library.

We were able to include nine new members of the community to borrow materials from the church library.

Book purchases were curtailed in July due to struggling church finances. As finances improved five titles were purchased in December, leaving an unused amount of approximately \$260.00. The yearly library budget is \$600.00.

Book choices are made by Church Council, congregants' recommendations, book reviews in Broadview Magazine or Spiritual Development Committee initiatives. With the recent start-up of the "Seniors Arts & Spirituality" and "LGBTQ2+ Seniors" Groups more titles have been purchased and existing titles used.



Donations are greatly encouraged, though additional copies of titles already held are not needed. As stated in church library policy: "Material in the library shall be chosen to meet the needs and interests of the staff and congregation, in accordance with the statement of purpose but will not duplicate services of the public library". If titles are readily available at the Vancouver Island Regional Library they will not be purchased by the church library. A new pilot project was started late December to encourage titles of interest at Vancouver Island Regional Library not held by the church library, these notices are posted on the church library bulletin board.

Three titles have been recorded LOST, two were returned to the public library (we were not able to retrieve though the staff did try to track them) and one not returned and assumed lost.

We continue to use the Dewey Decimal System with a separate area for biographies and fiction. We continue to use a card catalogue, with TITLE, AUTHOR, and SUBJECT file boxes. We have separate file boxes for the children's collection.

### Your Library Committee:

*Sheryl Simpson, Lynn McArthur, Dale MacEwan, Bhree Young.*

## PROPERTY TEAM



2022 was a fairly quiet year for the Property department at St Paul's. Regular yard work continued to keep the place looking tidy: lawns cut, leaves blown, garbage and yard waste put out, windows and gutters cleaned.

- Regular, scheduled maintenance and inspections were also carried out on the furnace, fire alarms, and water back-pressure. One furnace needed minor repairs, which were done.
- The projectors in the sanctuary both blew their bulbs. The front projector was repaired; the back projector was removed. A new system is in the works. (Watch this space!)
- The cedar tree on the neighbour's property behind our garden shed was impacting the fence and causing it to buckle. The neighbour paid to have the tree trimmed and we sold the wood.
- The lights in the library were replaced with LED fixtures and, while the electrician was here, he also replaced two burned-out fixtures in the Fellowship Hall with LED fixtures.
- One of the taps in the kitchen was dripping and we managed to fix it without calling the plumber.
- The leak from the urinal and the switch on the vacuum were also remedied by our own people. There are times when we need to call professional trades, but if we can do things ourselves it not only saves us money but also builds a sense of ownership and belonging.

For their help I thank: Don Johnson, Geoff Brannon (Wendy's husband), Scott Mitchell, Terrisa Tate, David Hemsall, Russ Hudson. If I have missed anyone, I apologize.

There are jobs that will need to be done in 2023: the fountain is still leaking, the circuit to the electrical plugs in the nursery/studio is not working, more lighting needs to be replaced with LED fixtures.

If you have any hidden talents, please do not be shy about stepping forward. We are all part of the wonderful family of St Paul's United Church.

*Eli Mitchell*  
Representative



## WORSHIP TEAM

The goal of the Worship Team is to assist the Minister to provide worship that engages the lives of the congregation, and to challenge and enable people in their spiritual growth and outreach. The team keeps in contact by way of informal chats before and after church services, an occasional telephone conversation, or an infrequent formal meeting.

The team members are tasked with finding Greeters at the door and Scripture Readers for every Sunday. We change the banners and antependia as required; prepare the elements for communion, and either serve it or find others to serve. Beautiful floral arrangements are provided on a weekly basis, usually by Isobel Bussey and Gail Latta. If you would like to become involved in any of these tasks there is a sign-up sheet posted inside the window in the foyer of the church. Please feel free to sign up or to speak with any member of the team— we will welcome your help.

This past year has been challenging. The team was kept very busy finding pulpit supply during June, July and August while our minister was on sabbatical. We gratefully thank Chair of Council Dorothy Wiebe who provided meaningful reflections during this time, assisted by other members of the congregation. Rev Bob Gilbert led services in August and by the beginning of September we were blessed to have Rev Cheryl Black in place as our half-time minister, preaching two Sundays a month, and soon thereafter we had Rev Bill Cantalon and Rev Joan McMurtry each preaching one Sunday per month. There is a fifth Sunday in a month every quarter, so pulpit supply must be found for those times too.



Outside banners have been hung, starting in the fall with the orange "Every Child Matters" banner, followed by LGBTQ+ banners. In November we hung a Poppy banner for Remembrance and then a December Christmas banner. These immediately made the church very visible to passing pedestrians and motorists. It is our aim to hang banners by the door throughout the year. Meanwhile, we have retired our long-used Christmas indoor banners (you may remember the wise men and their camels) and are replacing them with a series of beautiful modern designs as St Paul's moves forward on a new path. This kit of six banners was purchased by Dale MacEwan and Audrey Ash – please thank Dale and Audrey for their generosity! If you

are at all creative or like to sew and would like to be involved in making new banners, please contact anyone on our team.

During the summer months we shared services with the congregation of Central Saanich UC whose Minister, Rev Bob Gilbert, preached at both his church and at ours and both congregations attended at both places of worship. In summer Rev Gilbert conducted a very successful joint Pet Service in our garden area. This was a very successful event with "Pet Whisperer" Rev Bob showing he had a great rapport with our beloved furry friends.



In December Rev Joan McMurtry conducted a meaningful Christmas Eve service which concluded with everyone holding a lit candle while singing Silent Night. This service took place despite the record-breaking snowfall during the previous week that clogged roads and parking lots! It was a close call whether or not to cancel it, however it went ahead and there was a very good turnout, despite the wintry weather.

### Worship Team:

*Dale MacEwan, Audrey Ash, Esther Miller, Marjorie Tate*

## **AMALGAMATION COMMITTEE**

Council Representatives – Elizabeth Brown-Shaw, Carol Smith, Eli Mitchell

In early 2022 St Paul's Council decided that it was prudent, and urgent, for the congregation to formally investigate amalgamation with Central Saanich United Church: their financial position and lay leadership capacity implied that, without a significant change of trajectory, the congregation had approximately 18-24 months of resources remaining.

Elizabeth Brown-Shaw, newly appointed to Council, agreed to chair these efforts on behalf of St Paul's. Susanne Craig, Ken Summers, Carol Smith and Eli Mitchell served with this committee at various points during the year.

In March Rev Gail Miller (Regional Minister) hosted a meeting of the two councils at Central Saanich United Church to begin to explore the strengths, cultures, visions and possibilities for amalgamation from the perspective of each congregation. Based on the informal consensus that emerged, a meeting was held at St Paul's where a smaller group brainstormed to develop a discussion document that captured the potential vision, mission, and outreach of a combined congregation, as well as a briefing that could be delivered to both congregations describing the important concepts relating to, and the implications of, amalgamation.

St Paul's was considered to be in need of a simple solution that would not tax over-stretched volunteer resources. This meant that lengthy deliberations between equal partners were not feasible, and some kind of absorption amalgamation or closure and transfer was more appropriate.

A congregational meeting was held in April at which a briefing was provided and it was moved that St Paul's United Church Council actively pursue an amalgamation with Central Saanich United Church. After a lengthy and emotional discussion, this motion passed.

During the remainder of April and May, teams from the two congregations made an effort to fast-track the planning process for the eventual amalgamation, so that the congregation could vote on a proposal before the summer break and a final plan in September, with an expected implementation date of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023. The group held a working assumption that the simplest mechanism was likely for St Paul's to officially close and be absorbed with all their assets, including the building, bank accounts, and membership, by the congregation of Central Saanich.

Congregational conversations were held in early June to solicit feedback on the proposed approach and to determine any factors that would be show-stoppers when the final plans was presented; the necessity to continue to hold Sunday services at St Paul's was high on this list. Congregational feedback made it clear that, despite an openness to collaboration and amalgamation in the longer term, there was a wish to investigate other ways of evolving as a community of faith in the meantime. At their meeting later that month the Council decided to extend the timeline somewhat and look at other options to extend the financial runway (e.g., adjustments to working hours of the staff), to reconvene the committee in September, and to remove the intended (and self-imposed) deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 for implementation.

The summer period saw very successful shared worship services on several Sundays, as well as a month during which Central Saanich held its services at the St Paul's sanctuary. Members of both congregations expressed a sense of being welcomed by the other. Furthermore, an active and creative study group met to discuss "Fishing Tips: How Curiosity Transformed a Congregation" by Rev John Pentland. This led to numerous new ideas and initiatives being

introduced at St Paul's, and was among the factors that led to a sense of revitalization and hope within the congregation.

In September, St Paul's hired Rev Cheryl Black on a 40% basis to preach two Sundays/month and assist the congregation in getting back on a stable financial and congregational footing. With this evolution in the situation at St Paul's, we advised the team from Central Saanich that we would like to continue to seek out ways to collaborate on programming and leadership of outreach activities, but we desired to become stronger as a congregation before entering into a formal amalgamation relationship. Both ministry and lay personnel continue to communicate with their counterparts at Central Saanich to build on our sense of common purpose on the Peninsula. When the Art and Craft Fair was held in November, several of the volunteer workers were from the Central Saanich congregation.

If there is to be an amalgamation involving the congregation of St Paul's, the congregation would like to enter into the relationship from a position of strength. Our overarching goal is to ensure a lively and vibrant community of faith in Sidney with strong working relationships across the Peninsula. The optimal organization and leadership structure for this eventual steady state remains to be seen.

*Elizabeth Brown-Shaw*

## **THE RAVING READERS BOOK CLUB**

Once a month, on the fourth *Tuesday*, nine or ten of us meet to discuss a book we all have read. We usually get our selections from the public library, which has sets of books available for circulation. Occasionally, we all read different books of our own choosing, and discuss them at our monthly meetings.

this year, some of the books we have read and discussed are: *A Hero's Walk*, *My Italian Bulldozer*, *Molokai*, *Daughter of Molokai*, *The Right to be Cold*, *A Line of Driftwood*, *The Prison Book Club*, and *Birdie*. They varied in subject matter, seriousness, and general content area. As you might suspect, some were enjoyed more than others!

We do have room for more readers, so if you have Tuesday morning, from 10 to noon available, you might consider joining us. We'd love to have a few more participants!

*Nancy Coutts*

## **HOSPITALITY TEAM**

Five teams have been formed, one for each Sunday of the month, and these teams oversee Sunday morning refreshments. The designated team provides some sort of light refreshments (their choice), make tea and coffee, and clean up afterwards. They will also ensure that there is sufficient cream and milk available.



This arrangement has now been operating for three months and seems to be working smoothly. The teams are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Barbara Dignan, Carol Smith, Jennifer Viljoen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Angela Rolfe, Marjorie Tate
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Judy Bicknell, Gail Latta, Pat Schramm
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Susanne Craig, Carole Neeves, Trisha House
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Guiju Mowbrey , Plerie Patnon, Gina Atkinson

In addition, Barb Johnston has kindly offered to be a reserve when and if she is needed.

As always, we welcome more help at any time. Please contact Jennifer Viljoen if you feel inspired to lend a hand!

Please also consider donating some baking for the Sunday morning refreshment time. You can drop it off in the kitchen on a Sunday morning prior to the service beginning. It will be very welcome.

*Jennifer Viljoen*

## **OTHER REPORTS FROM INTEREST GROUPS**

### **2022 – 1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ART and CRAFT FAIR**

The first Annual Christmas Art and Craft Fair was deemed a success. The event was held on November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. There were 28 vendor stalls. Several spaces were booked by congregation members, some of whom got together and shared a table.

In all, there were 679 visitors. Many vendors have indicated that they would like to come back again.

#### **Revenue**

Vendor bookings 26 @ \$50	\$1,300.00
Raffle tickets	\$ 860.00
Baking sales	\$1,847.00
Refreshments sales	\$ 353.00
Craft sales	\$ 321,00
Donation jar	\$ 278.75
Other revenue (church member donated profits)	\$1,269.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,228.85</b>

*Wendy Duffield*

## ANGEL GIFT PROGRAM

The Angel Gift program provides Christmas gifts for the family members of Our Place in Victoria. St Paul's continues to be part of this Ministry and in 2022 we agreed to provide gifts for 25 of the people who registered. There was such an overwhelming response and desire to participate from our congregation that in the end I delivered THIRTY gifts to Our Place. Thank you to all of our Angels!

*Eli Mitchell*

## BRIDGE AND SCRABBLE GROUP

The Bridge and Scrabble groups were happy to resume their activities following a long break due to Covid 19. They meet on Friday afternoons from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Usually there are 3 tables of bridge and 1 or 2 of Scrabble.



As we are not offering coffee and tea we are not charging a fee but a donation basket is made available.

We lost some of the long-time bridge players to death in 2020 and 2021, so we are looking to welcome new players for both Bridge and Scrabble.

If you would like further information please feel free to contact Hazel Phillips at [hazelph@telus.net](mailto:hazelph@telus.net) or at 250-656-6143.

*Hazel Phillips*

## KNITTING AND CRAFTING GROUP

A new initiative was started in 2022. A group of knitters was looking for a safe place to meet, so we started a group at the St Paul's church. On Friday mornings from 10 until noon you can find anywhere from six to fifteen people meeting in either the Lounge or the Fellowship Hall (whichever is available) where they work on projects for themselves or for the Compassionate Warehouse in Esquimalt. They have knitted and crocheted many dishcloths, blankets, touques and teddy bears, to name just a few of the items that are destined for overseas. There is no charge for joining this group but donations are always accepted. Donations of yarn are also very much appreciated. These can be given to Eli or Hazel or dropped off at the church office.



*Eli Mitchell*



## LINE DANCING

Yet another initiative to fill a need. Susan Martman, who teaches Line Dancing, was looking for a venue, so we started a Line Dancing class in the Fall of 2022. We spend an enjoyable hour and a half on Thursday evenings trying to get our feet to follow what Susan is showing us. The cost to perfect your footwork is \$5 per person with the first \$50 going to the church and any extra going to the Food Bank. Susan takes nothing for her time. This class is good fun, good fellowship, and good exercise. Watch out for Classes starting again in April when Susan returns from her winter escape.

*Eli Mitchell*

## SENIORS' ARTS AND SPIRITUALITY PROGRAM

This is one of two new programs being funded by a ProVision grant from the United Church of Canada (for 2 years). This free group is open to members of the community in the 55+ age group. It meets weekly on Mondays (2-3:30pm) and is facilitated by Wendy Duffield (Church Office Manager). The first two sessions held in December were attended by 5 and 12 participants. The scheduled third session was cancelled due to the snow. The 2023 program is already planned through to April.

*Wendy Duffield*

## PANTOMIME OUTING

Who wants to go to the theatre? For several years pre-Covid an outing to the Theatre in Chemainus took place and was a very popular event. However, nowadays the cost of the bus is far too expensive for most people to consider (over \$200. per person) so I came up with another option. Think Local, support Local.

I ordered pizzas from Mariners Pizza, and veggie trays from Thrifty foods, and we had supper at the church. We then made our way to the Charlie White Theatre at Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney to see the local Peninsula Players in their production of *Alice in Pantoland*.

I had secured 60 seats in the center section. The total cost for supper and theatre was \$30 per person. Should I do it again next year?

*Eli Mitchell*

## CHARITY MUSIC CONCERT

Thomas Andersen, our pianist performed a fundraising concert in October for "Cops for Cancer" and raised over \$1000!



## FINANCIAL REPORTS

### Treasurer's Report

The year 2022 brought big changes at St Paul's, as outlined in other reports. Financially, there were many changes as well. The church was not open for in-person services during the first two and a half months of the year, which impacted us financially, as there were reduced envelope givings. By late summer, as well as the regular services, the church was open for rentals and group meetings. Bridge and Scrabble re-opened, and the knitting group and line-dancing started meeting. Fortunately our Fellowship Hall and small nursery were rented out for the entire year, ensuring that income stream.

### Changeover to United Church Par System

In the month of May we changed our automatic withdrawal system for donations from the Coast Capital system to the United Church of Canada's PAR system. At that time several members who had been giving via the envelope system changed to PAR.

### Minister's Sabbatical June – August

The church budgeted \$10,000 in 2022 for a part-time minister during Rev Suzanna's sabbatical, but the Region was unable to find a replacement for the three months period. However the church was able to use pulpit supply for a few Sundays, worshipped at Central Saanich United for two Sundays, and enjoyed having Central Saanich United join us at St Paul's for the month of August with their minister, Bob Gilbert and music minister, Amy. This meant that St Paul's spent very little of this budgeted amount.

### Part-Time Ministry

Rev Cheryl Black was appointed by the Region as St Paul's part-time minister (40% time) as of October 1, 2023, (after serving for four months as supervising minister) upon the resignation of Rev Suzanna Bates. The church paid out Rev Suzanna's salary for three months, as a condition of her employment, which is why the cost of wages/contracts/benefits was higher for the year. Going forward into 2023, St Paul's, with Rev Cheryl as part-time, will be much more viable. In addition, we have seen Rev Cheryl's expertise in stewardship and fund-raising, as well as grant application writing. The ProVision grant of \$66,000 has enabled St Paul's to upgrade the audio-visual system, as well as enabled the church to offer two seniors' programs for the wider peninsula community, as well as for our own congregants.

### Fund-raising

Heartfelt "Kudos" to our teams of fund-raisers! Between donations from participants of several community attended groups (line-dancing, bridge and scrabble, knitting), the flower basket project in the spring, a Hallowe'en dinner, bottle returns, and coffee/produce donations on Sundays, St Paul's netted almost \$6,000. And then there was the ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR in November! Many thanks to Wendy, our office assistant for the idea, and for organizing this great fund-raiser with a team of volunteers from the congregation. This netted \$6,400.

### Stewardship Campaign

This campaign took place in the month of November. Letters went out to all members and adherents of the congregation, asking for their continued support in 2023, and to consider increasing their givings.

- Number of New PAR givers: 4
- Number increasing their PAR/Envelope donations: 13

This resulted in the givings to St Paul's going up by \$1,000 per month.

New Envelope Numbers assigned in the fall of 2022: 4.

### Christmas Gift Initiative

As well as having a Stewardship Campaign for 2023, St Paul's started a Christmas Gift Initiative as a challenge to the congregation. Two members came forward, each offering to give the church up to \$5,000, providing the other members of the congregation in total gave \$5,000. And .....St. Paul's people were very generous! \$12,780 was given in response. Adding the \$10,000 given by the two benefactors, \$22,780 was added to St. Paul's coffers.

### Profit and Loss Statement 2022

Just a few comments to help you understand this statement:

- Under "Income":
  - 1) Grant Funds \$49,508 – partial payment. Balance will be paid to church in 2023.
  - 2) Fundraising – This is a gross figure. The cost of the Flower Baskets is under "fundraising expenses".
- Under "Expenses"
  - 1) Wages and benefits high – this reflects full time ministry for most of the year.
  - 2) Utilities – increase over last year – heating costs particularly were up.
  - 3) Worship expenses – partial payment from Grant funds for AV system in sanctuary. Balance will be paid upon completion.

The figure at the bottom of the column: is loss in 2022. Even with the extra expense, St Paul's has started to reduce our loss figure, compared with 2021.

### Budget 2023

Under cost of operations: Cost of wages will be down, benefits down, but more going to contracts. Two of the contracts are for facilitators of the Seniors Arts and Spirituality Group and the LGBTQ+ group, which will be paid out of the ProVision Grant received.

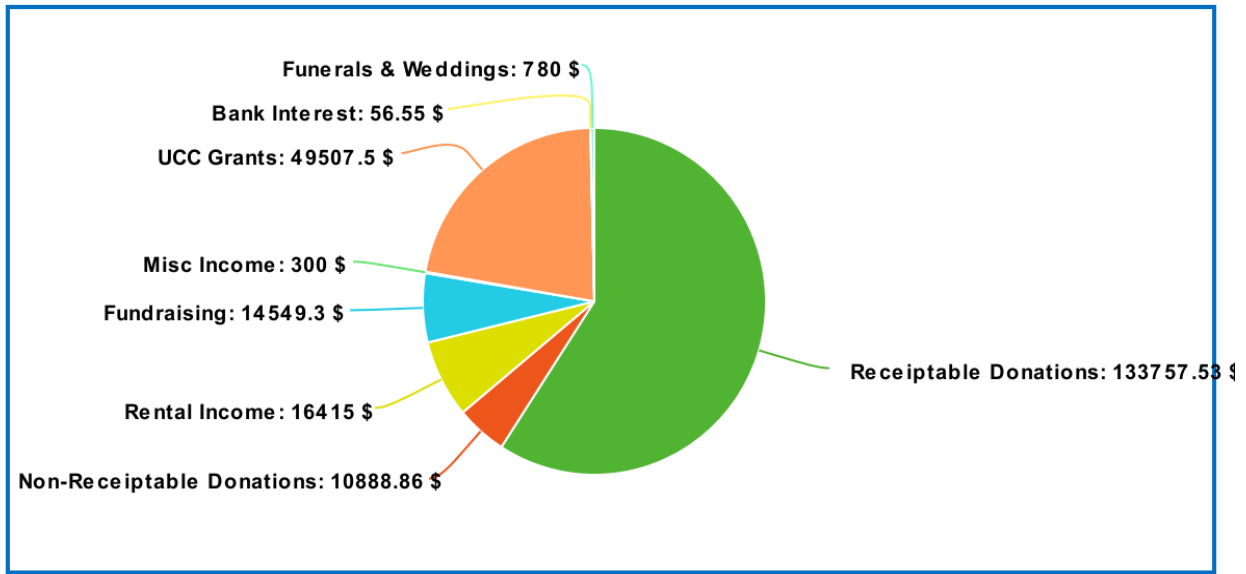
You will note that St Paul's is presenting a balanced budget for 2023.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Bicknell  
Treasurer

**St. Paul's United Church - Sidney BC**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As of December 31, 2022**

	<u>Total</u>	
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Cash</b>	74,989	75,428
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	-	-
<b>Prepaid Expenses</b>	3,176	829
<b>GST Recoverable</b>	2,085	2,035
	<u>80,249</u>	<u>78,292</u>
<b>Property &amp; Equipment</b>	685,707	685,707
<b>Trustee Assets</b>	124,540	140,800
	<u>810,248</u>	<u>826,507</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>890,497</b>	<b>904,800</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
<b>Accounts Payable (A/P)</b>	6,673	3,387
	<u>6,673</u>	<u>3,387</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>6,673</b>	<b>3,387</b>
<b>Investment in Fixed Assets</b>	685,707	685,707
<b>Amount held in trust</b>	142,840	142,092
<b>Retained Earnings</b>	55,277	73,614
	<u>883,824</u>	<u>899,413</u>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>890,497</b>	<b>904,800</b>

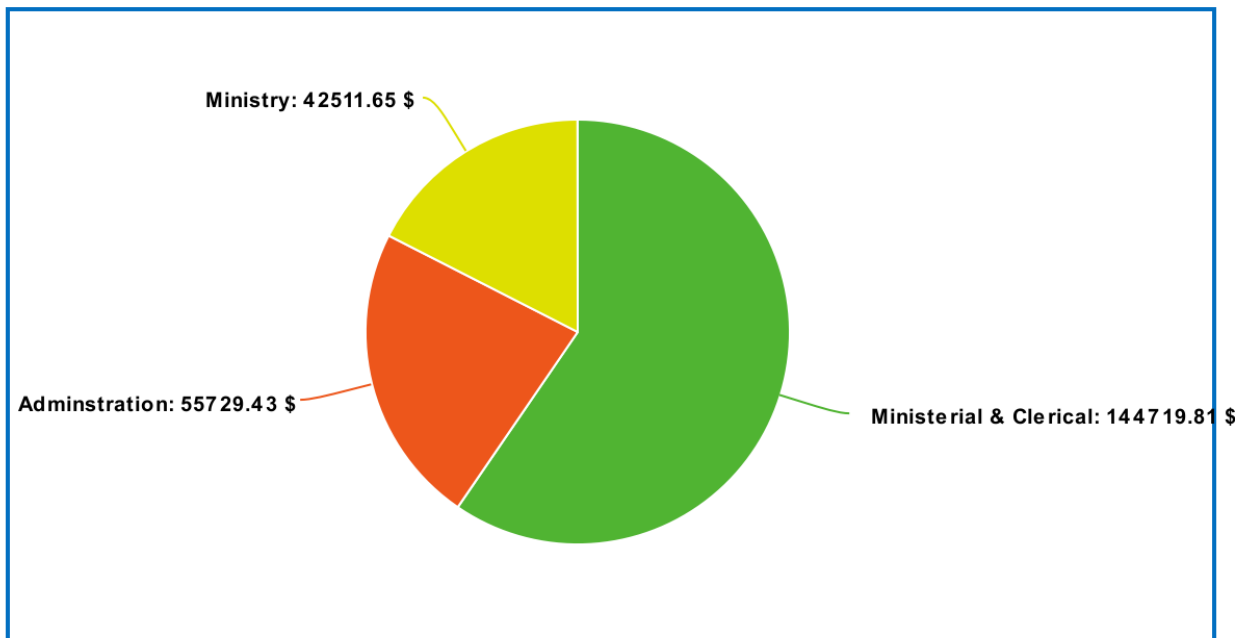
### 2022 Income



- Receiptable Donations
- Non-Receiptable Donations
- Rental Income
- Fundraising
- Misc Income
- UCC Grants
- Bank Interest
- Funerals & Weddings

meta-chart.com

### 2022 Expenses



- Ministerial & Clerical
- Administration
- Ministry

meta-chart.com

**St. Paul's United Church - Sidney BC**  
**Profit and Loss**  
January - December 2022

	Total	
	Jan - Dec. 2022	Jan - Dec. 2021
<b>Revenue</b>		
Envelopes	21,653	48,727
PAR	76,478	70,339
M&S	11,705	13,389
Other Donations	5,997	15,265
Outreach	1,432	1,282
Special Appeals	22,780	
Loose Offering	737	403
Canada Helps Donations	3,865	2,856
Rental Income	16,415	14,200
Funerals & Weddings	780	1,000
Fundraising	14,549	26,715
Memorial Endowment Fund		
<b>Contribution</b>		20,822
Misc Income	300	
UCC Grants	49,508	
Bank Interest	57	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>226,255</b>	<b>214,998</b>
<b>Cost of Sales</b>		
Direct Wages	112,661	96,498
Trades & Sub-Contracts	13,815	19,797
Employee Benefits	16,155	21,153
Pulpit Supply	2,088	2,873
	<b>144,720</b>	<b>140,321</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>81,535</b>	<b>74,677</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Financial Review	2,650	600
Regional Assessments	8,834	7,348
Office Supplies	2,588	5,533
Telephone & Internet	702	1,498
Insurance	9,747	9,198
Utilities	12,756	7,609
Maintenance & Repair	3,311	37,956
Bank & Service Charges	1,023	983
Misc Expenses	3,315	822
M&S Contribution Remittance	10,995	14,671

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<b>Property Taxes</b>	215	205
<b>Depreciation_ Expense</b>		9,060
<b>Music Ministry</b>	509	685
<b>Pastoral Care Ministry</b>	51	
<b>Worship</b>	36,621	128
<b>Outreach Ministry</b>	3,209	
<b>Ministry &amp; Personnel</b>	285	260
<b>Library</b>	302	639
<b>Fundraising Expenses</b>	2,273	3,291
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>99,386</b>	<b>100,485</b>
<b>PROFIT</b>	<b>-17,850</b>	<b>-25,809</b>

## St Paul's United Church Budget 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>Revenues</b>		
Envelopes	23,000.00	27,000.00
PAR	86,940.00	83,000.00
M&S	10,000.00	
Outreach	500.00	
Special Appeals	15,000.00	10,000.00
Loose Offering	1,800.00	200.00
Other Donations	5,000.00	
Canada Helps Donations	1,800.00	
Rental Income	16,000.00	16,000.00
Funerals & Weddings	1,000.00	
Fundraising	12,000.00	7,000.00
Nov Arts & Crafts Fair	7,000.00	
Misc Income	300.00	
UCC Grants	16,502.50	
Bank Interest	50.00	
	<u>196,892.50</u>	<u>143,200.00</u>
 <b>Cost of Operations</b>		
Direct Wages	65,256.00	81,900.00
Trades & Sub-Contracts	22,190.00	36,500.00
Employee Benefits	2,245.76	19,500.00
Pulpit Supply	7,000.00	1,000.00
	<u>96,691.76</u>	<u>138,900.00</u>
 <b>Gross Profit</b>	 <u>100,200.74</u>	 <u>4,300.00</u>
 <b>Expenses</b>		
Financial Review	600.00	
Regional Assessment	7,659.00	7,000.00
Office Supplies	2,500.00	2,500.00
Photocopier	2,512.80	2,500.00
Telephone & Internet	2,737.32	1,500.00



Subscriptions/Licenses	2,092.84	
Insurance	11,500.00	10,400.00
Utilities		
BC Hydro	2,000.00	3,000.00
Fortis	10,000.00	3,000.00
Water	700.00	400.00
Maintenance & Repair	4,500.00	3,000.00
Bank Service Charges	1,050.00	1,000.00
Misc Expenses	1,500.00	500.00
M&S Remittance	10,000.00	
Property Taxes	225.00	200.00
Music Ministry	1,000.00	1,000.00
Pastoral Care Ministry	150.00	500.00
Worship	5,000.00	2,000.00
Outreach Ministry	500.00	
Library & Educational Programs	1,000.00	
Fundraising Expenses	6,000.00	
Ministry & Personnel	300.00	2,000.00
Innovation	15,000.00	
	<b>88,526.96</b>	<b>40,500.00</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>11,673.78</b>	<b>-36,200.00</b>

