



February 2012

NEWSLETTER

**St Paul's United Church
Grande Prairie, AB**

*“Love bears all things,
Believes all things,
Hopes all things,
Endures all things.
Love never ends.”*

1 Corinthians 13:7-8

ST PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

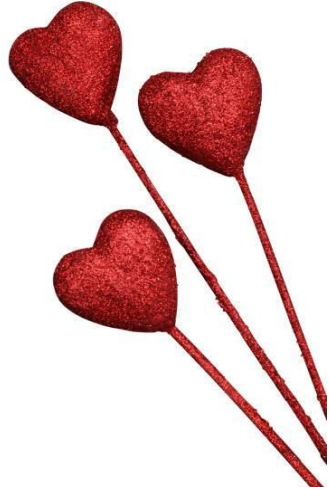
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Webpage: www.stpaulsuc.ca



MINISTER:

Reverend GORD WALDIE

SUNDAY SERVICE: 10am

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10am

Watch for program schedule updates in bulletin or hallway bulletin board

ADULT CHOIR:



Rehearsals Thursday 7:30pm

HANDBELL CHOIR:

Rehearsals Mondays 7:30pm

JR HANDBELL CHOIR:

Rehearsals Mondays 6:30pm



**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE
March ISSUE**

Sunday, February 26th

Editor: Valerie Jenner

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EDITOR'S PAGE...



WE NEED A BENCH AD, TOO!!

I found this picture on the United Church's WonderCafe Webpage. I hope you can read the main line - *"We prefer our church-goers to be awake. That's why we offer you a coffee on the way in."*



It goes on to say **"we also try to keep the service lively with relevant, thoughtful topics of discussion, a little welcome humor and some great music."**

Wow, that seems like quite the commitment. The coffee would be the easy part of this service, but to promise a lively service; relevant, thoughtful topics of discussion; welcome humor; and great music... EVERY week??

At first I thought that was somewhat arrogant... granted, probably unintentional... but then it hit me. Duh!! That's OUR church!! We have all that... and more!!

Maybe we all need to look around and see how good we have it at St Paul's. Yes, we struggle with membership and finances like many churches, but we're actively involved and look forward to coming to church on Sundays.

Hey, maybe we should get the word out. Let's brew up some coffee and get a bench ad, too!!

'til next time,
Valerie J

From GORD'S DESK...



A couple of weeks ago I was one of the 140 or so people who gathered in Teresa Sargent Hall for a presentation by Peter Kageyama, author of the book *For the Love of Cities*. The event was sponsored by City Council to start a discussion (or multiple discussions) about why people love Grande Prairie and how to build affection for the city within the residents of Grande Prairie.

AS I have reflected on that session I have come up with a couple of questions I would like to pose in this newsletter. And maybe they will grow into an ongoing dialogue.

The first is to ask if you love your church. And if so why? If you could write a love note about St. Paul's, what would it say? And maybe more to the point, what would make you love the church more? How did you fall in love with the church?

This sounds like a discussion question to me. I think we, as a congregation, will benefit and grow by hearing how St. Paul's has made an impact on our lives. And so I am offering a challenge. I know that Valerie is often looking for submissions to the Newsletter and so, I challenge people to write their response to one of these questions: "What St. Paul's means to me?" or "Why am I a part of this congregation?" and send it to Valerie for use in a future issue. I am sure that if you asked nicely she would even publish it anonymously if you wanted. (*Note I have NOT talked to Valerie about this, so she may think I am out to lunch*).

The other question has to do with our relationship with the larger community. How attached are we, as individuals and as a group, to the community around us? Are we offering love notes to the city of Grande Prairie? Do we make an impact (*hopefully positive*) on the city by our presence?

As it happens, this links with a discussion we are planning to have at our next Council meeting. Before Christmas we decided that we would include on every Council agenda, near the beginning of the meeting, some time for visioning-type discussions. The first of these happened in November when we talked about the need for and role of a Pastoral Care Committee (*which still exists in our structure, but has become defunct over the years*). This month we talked about providing transportation assistance on Sunday mornings.

Next month we are going to discuss this question: "If St. Paul's were not here, what difference would that make to our community?" If we were to disappear would anybody notice? Council has been asked to think about this over the next month in preparation for our discussion. I invite you to ponder that question as well. And, if you have thoughts on the answer, feel free to jot down a few notes and pass them on. Or feel free to attend the Council meeting (*guests and observers are always welcome*) and join in the discussion.

So, that's where I am this week. Lots of questions, but no answers. Maybe next month I'll come up with answers and no questions??

- Gord





“HAPPENINGS & UPDATES”



Happy
Valentine's
Day!

SENIOR LODGE SERVICES

February 12th ... Heritage Lodge 6pm

March 4th ... Pioneer Lodge 6pm

March 25th ... GP Care Centre 4pm

Everyone from the congregation is invited to join us



2012 CALENDARS

There are still some United Church 2012 Calendars available.

The year is young yet,
so get your calendar now!!

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Have you moved recently? Does the Church Office have your new
address and/or phone number?

Please call Carla in the Office and update your
information. Thanks!!

HEALING TOUCH

Sunday, February 12th

If you need an individual Healing Touch session, please contact Carla at the Church Office to make an appointment.

COMMUNION DATES

**Sunday, February 26th
Sunday, March 18th
Easter Sunday, April 8th**



LABYRINTH

Sunday, February 26th at 7pm

An inward journey on a sacred path

SIGN-UP SHEET

Please see the Sign-Up Sheet on the table in the front foyer if you are interested in helping in any way during the Sunday Services.

AVOID CONFUSION

Avoid confusion and disturbing other programs in progress by checking the calendar in the Office hallway for the times and areas of St Paul's being used at any given time. If your booking is not on the calendar, please contact Carla in the Office to update.

*People want the front of the bus, the back of the church,
and the center of attention!*

UCW 4th ANNUAL
“Grandmothers to Grandmothers”
COFFEE PARTY

A “Grandmother Gathering” was held in Toronto in August 2006 prior to the International AIDS Conference. The Stephen Lewis Foundation of Canada brought 100 grandmothers from Africa to visit with 200 Canadian grandmothers. The Canadian grandmothers were profoundly impressed by the resilience, ingenuity, determination and hopefulness of the African grandmothers despite their experiences of grief and depression.

Since 2006, many “Grandmother to Grandmother” groups have been created across Canada. Members of our St Paul’s UCW were moved by the stories of grandmothers who have lost their siblings and children to AIDS and are left to raise their grandchildren without any support.

All donations from this Coffee Party will go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation in support of the “Grandmothers to Grandmothers” program.

**Grandmothers, of course, are invited,
but so are any grandfathers, and anyone wanting to support these
courageous grandmothers!**



COFFEE PARTY
Friendship Room
Tuesday, February 14th
10:00 - 12:00 noon



EVERYONE IS WELCOME
And you know the muffins will be DELICIOUS!!

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 21st
Large Basement
5-7pm



All proceeds will go to the Accessibility Fund
for our Lift.

Watch for more information!



The EXPLORERS want to say Thank You
to Mrs Barbara Hofmeister
for coming to their group!

She talked about what life was like when she was their age,
the things she didn't have that the girls take for granted,
and the changes to life and lifestyle as you get older.

The girls learned so much!!

THANK YOU, MRS HOFMEISTER!!!

~ ~ ~ UPCOMING MEETINGS ~ ~ ~

St Paul's Council Meeting:

Friendship Room - Wednesday, February 15th - 7:30pm

*****Worship Committee:**

Large Basement - Saturday, February 25th - 8:30am

*****Property & Maintenance Committee:**

Large Basement - Saturday, February 25th - 8:30am

*** These two Committees are joining together for breakfast and will separate for their meetings.***



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:



Sunday, February 26th following Sunday Worship

CD (*Christian Development*) Committee:

Rev Gord's Office - Thursday, March 1st - 7pm

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

to attend any or all of these meetings!

**All are particularly encouraged to attend the
St Paul's Annual General Meeting.**

When you carry the Bible,
Satan gets a headache.
When you open it,
he collapses.
When he sees you reading
the Bible, he faints.
When he sees that you are
living what you read,
he flees!!



Security staff at Bangkok’s International airport “suspected something amiss” when they X-rayed a woman passenger’s luggage. When officers opened one bag for inspection, they found that it contained a live, sedated tiger cub!!

- World Wildlife Fund, Thailand

Coffee Filter... Who Knew?

- ~ disposable “snack bowl” for popcorn, chips, etc.
- ~ wrap Christmas ornaments for storage
- ~ a spoon rest on the counter when cooking



The problem with being materialistic is that it’s only a temporary high. You get stuff, you feel good, then the novelty wears off, and you’re forced to buy more stuff to get happy again. It’s a very unhappy cycle that, truthfully, never satisfies.

***“If you’re headed in the wrong direction,
God allows U-turns!”***

Christmas Cards to Jesus

A sample of cards written by St Paul's Youth Group



*"Happy Birthday Jesus!
Thank you for coming
into this world and
teaching us to think about our
actions before we do something
that can hurt someone we don't
mean to hurt."*



*Happy Birthday, Jesus,
Thank you for all
that you've taught me.
I've learnt a lot from
hearing about the Bible.*



*"Happy Birthday, Jesus!
You're the Man!
Thanks for all the stuff
you did!"*



*"Happy Birthday &
Merry Christmas,
Thank you for your sacrifices and your
determination for what was right.
We would live very difficult lives
if you didn't do what you did."*

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH SURVEY

Winter 2012

**What does St. Paul's mean to me?
Why am I a part of this congregation?**

**If St. Paul's were not here,
what difference would that make to our community?**