



**The Sunday
Service at our
sister church
Knox
begins at
9:15AM.
They are located
at
2227 Simms St.
in Mountain.**

www.stpaulskemptville.ca

Winter—2015

A Time to Celebrate Love



Dear St. Paul's Congregation:

I joyfully write to you on this the shortest but a very important month of the year. It's February, the month of love. As we move through it, we reflect on and celebrate three significant events that warm our hearts in this cold winter.

Let's see, according to the church liturgical calendar, February is in the heart of the Epiphany Season where we continue to express our thankfulness to God for His great love in sending His Son to take us out of darkness into the light of Christ's love and salvation.

February is also the month which some provinces celebrate Family Day. Family Day celebrates love, the importance of families and family life to people as well as their communities and reminds families to spend some quality time with each other away from their computers and smartphones.

And right in the middle of February we have Valentine's Day which is a great time to express our love, not only to our "sweetheart" but also to God. It is a time to express gratitude to God for sustaining our relationships and remaining faithful to us despite of

our failures in relationship with Him and with others.

February is the month of strengthening relationships on a personal, family, community and spiritual level. It is a time of love, healing, generosity, and expressed gratitude.

Our covenant relationship with God is similar to the covenant of marriage. God has been ever faithful to us for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health. It must not be easy for God as many times as we disappoint Him, but being a God of incredible grace He promises to be faithful to us to provide and sustain us all the days of our life.

Because of God's love for us, there is hope in the coldest and darkest moments of life. There is peace in the midst of uncertainty and confusion. Because of God's love, there is even joy in the heart when our eyes are filled with tears.

In light of God's great love for us, let us live our days in a way that models God's intention for this world to be a place where people love God and neighbour!

**Love from your Pastor,
Samer**



Congratulations again to Heather and Ron Stewart on the marriage of their son Lucas to Amanda Walker on September 27th. It looks like it was a glorious day and a great opportunity to take family photos of the clan, like the one you see above.

St. Paul's Youth Group is Fun For All ... Or is it?



Late last year the St. Paul's Youth Group went into Ottawa for a night of rides, games and laser tag at Funhaven Family Fun Centre. The kids had a blast and so did most of the leaders. Margaret was particularly fond of the rollercoaster simulator. Corina? Not so much. Our Youth Group is open to all children in our community who are in Grade 5 and up.

Presbyterians and Human Sexuality

At its General Assembly in June, the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) will revisit our official position on sexual orientation and human sexuality. Since this topic is bound to be controversial, St. Paul's Session thought it was important for the congregation to be fully briefed.

Currently, the view of the national church is that homosexual orientation is innate and is not a sin, but homosexual practice is. As a result, homosexuals are barred from ordination unless they are celibate and same-sex couples cannot be married or have their relationships blessed in a Presbyterian worship service.

The views of society and many Christians, however, have changed since this policy was adopted over twenty years ago.

After profound study and prayerful reflection, several of PCC's ecumenical partners have chosen to follow a different path. These include - the Presbyterian Church USA, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada, the Anglican Church of Canada and the Church of Scotland.

This summer, an open letter asking the PCC to reconsider its stance on human sexuality was circulated across the country. It was signed by over 600 elders and ministers.

As a result, the Presbyteries of East Toronto, Waterloo-Wellington and Calgary-Macleod all passed motions to put the matter on the agenda of our national AGM in June.

Though they all differ slightly in their wording, the resolutions call on the Presbyterian Church in Canada to be fully inclusive of every person regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity. This would cover all aspects of church life including calling, designation, ordination and marriage.

In a separate overture to General Assembly, the Presbytery of Calgary-MacLeod also asked that the authority of presbyteries and sessions be respected. Namely to discern whether someone is called to ministry and to determine who can be married within their church building.

If you are interested in reading the full report on human sexuality, please contact the minister or an elder. The newsletter will also be following the

issue closely and provide an update to the congregation after General Assembly meets in June.

In the meantime, please consider the following questions as you reflect and pray about this important subject:

- 1) On a scale of 1-10, what weight do the following factors have in how you interpret the Bible's teaching? Holy Spirit; Human Experience; Science; the Views of Sister Churches; Changing Government Policy; Evolution of Human Rights; and, Traditional versus Modern Theological Interpretation.
- 2) *Living Faith* 5:4 states - "The Bible is to be understood in the light of the revelation of God's work in Christ. The writing of the Bible was conditioned by the language, thought, and setting of its time. The Bible must be read in its historical context. We interpret Scripture as we compare passages, seeing the two Testaments in light of each other, and listening to commentators past and present. Relying on the Holy Spirit we seek the application of God's word for our time."

How do you determine which biblical laws related to gender, sex, diet, property, cleanliness, etc., are still applicable and which are not?
- 3) In matters of sexuality, do you believe the Bible:
 - a) Is limited by cultural prejudices of the ancient Middle East, but provides principles for right relationships based on love, mutuality, equality, respect and freedom to be different? Or
 - b) Offers specific/literal teaching true for all times and places beyond any cultural influence?
- 4) Since the PCC began, the church has changed its mind on the Pope, the institution of slavery, divorce, the status of women and aboriginal people. It has changed its mind on accepting that people have different sexual orientations. Should it change its mind on accepting people in same-sex relations or who have different sexual orientations in all aspects of ministry?

DID YOU KNOW THAT OUR WEBSITE AT ST. PAUL'S IS UPDATED EVERY WEEK? IT IS A GREAT PLACE TO LOOK FOR PHOTOS AND INFORMATION. YOU CAN FIND IT AT:

stpaulskemptville.ca

IF YOU KNOW OF FRIENDS OR NEIGHBOURS WHO WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL, CONTACT JIM ARMOUR AT j.armour@cogeco.ca

HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE HELD ON:

**March 29, 2015
June 7, 2015
October 4, 2015**

Circle This Date on Your Calendar



It's never too soon to be thinking about plants and what to put in this year's garden.

St. Paul's annual Plant and Bake Sale, Spring Luncheon and Car Wash (say that three times fast) will be held this year on **Saturday, June 6th.**

Please support this seasonal fundraiser by volunteering, providing plants and sweets, and by spending your money.

FREE !

Pastoral Care Training Program

2015 edition

***For Volunteer Visiting in Hospital,
Nursing Home and Community ©***

Written, Compiled & Edited by BGH Spiritual Care Manager & Chaplain

Janet Stark

234 Muldoon Rd. R R 5
Kemptville ON K0G 1J0
jstark9@cogeco.ca

A comprehensive, up-to-date Canadian resource of 570 pages useful for a full 30-hr training program, full or half-day workshops, or individual learning. Includes resources, learning materials, case studies, individual reflection exercises, Bible studies, institutional approaches and more. These materials use compassionate caring Christian principles in learning to provide spiritual care to people of all—or—no faith.

The material can be printed and shared freely with individuals, health institutions and faith communities! The copyright simply asks for the footer on each page to remain intact. A simple e-mail order will provide a full electronic .pdf manual. (Optional donations to the BGH Spiritual Care Special Training Fund will be gratefully accepted.) 16 PowerPoint presentations on CD and 10 suggested lesson plans are available for \$25 by mail.





Another Addition to the Extended Stark Clan

It didn't take big sisters Cady & Charlie long to get into the swing of things. This picture shows them already taking care of new baby Cheyenne Faith.

Cheyenne was born at Brockville General Hospital on December 23rd and came home Christmas Eve!

What a great Christmas present for Cheryl & Corey and Grandma & Poppa Stark.



St. Andrew's Children's Choir Retreat at St. Paul's

On Jan. 10th and 11th the Children's Choir of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Ottawa had their winter sleep-over retreat at St. Paul's.

Their retreat began on Saturday noon with variety of indoor and outdoor activities.

At night, the children and their leaders enjoyed seeing the minister chasing two flying visitors and leading them out of the church.

On Sunday the children performed two songs beautifully during St. Paul's worship service. It was quite a fun and adventurous time for them in Kemptville.





It was wonderful, after so many years, that Dennis and Jean Dibb were able to attend our Christmas Eve Service. It was a great time of reunion with St. Paul's congregation remembering the old good days they shared together. We keep Dennis and Jean in our prayers asking God to bless them as they were a source of blessing to many at St. Paul's.



Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

Our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Sunday was another great and up-lifting day.

After worship, which was dedicated to the theme of service, the congregation was treated to a lunch prepared by the men of St. Paul's.

The lunch included the traditional Scottish dish Haggis as well as Scottish music and the poetry of Robert Burns.

Thank you Roger Stark and team for your hard work and thank you volunteers for your dedication to St. Paul's.

2015 Giving Goals St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

O Give Thanks to the Lord, For He is Good, His Steadfast Love Endures Forever.

This past year was a busy and exciting one at St. Paul's. Our worship services were energetic and well-attended, taking advantage of multi-media and various forms of music and praise. We reached out to an even wider segment of our community with fun programming, social media and timely mission projects. As a congregation, we helped people in need right here in North Grenville and around the world through our support of local and international aid organizations.

We want to keep doing great things like these, witnessing to the love of God both at home and abroad! But we need your help.

In order to plan for next year, please take a few minutes to set your **Personal Giving Goal** for 2015 by filling out the form below. It is purely voluntary and for general planning purposes **only** – it is a challenge you set for yourself. The information you provide is strictly confidential and will **not** be shared.

On behalf of the entire congregation, thank you for your generous support of our mission.

Pledge Form 2015

NAME : _____ **ADDRESS:** _____

We are grateful for the Compassion and Generosity of God's Gifts in our lives.

We are thankful for the Hope with which God blesses us.

We generously pledge the following amount to further St. Paul's mission in 2015

\$ _____ Weekly \$ _____ Monthly \$ _____ Annually

Signature

Please return this form by **March 15th** to:

Bea McHale
Envelope Secretary
c/o St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
319 Prescott Street
Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0

St. Paul's can now accept your generous donation through a pre-authorized payment plan or by credit card. Please see www.stpaulskemptville.ca for details.

**Key Contacts at
St. Paul's
Presbyterian
Church**

**Reverend Samer
Kandalafi**

613-258-6654
samshahr@hotmail.com

**Heather Stewart
Clerk of Session**

613-258-5132
hr.stewart@cogeco.ca

**Joanne Pappas
Chair, Board of
Managers**

613-258-3201
jpappas11@gmail.com

**Steven Verhey
Organist and Choir
Director**

613-258-7620
csverhey1@gmail.com

**Nancy Messenger
Superintendent of
Church School**

613-258-5538
summerraspberry@
hotmail.com

**Margaret Armour
Corina Blondin
Youth Group**

613-258-7577
m.armour@cogeco.ca
and 613-258-9625
cblondin@cogeco.ca

**Judy Messenger
Women's Missionary
Society**

613-258-5538
dmessenger@magma.ca

**Jim Armour
Newsletter Editor**

613-258-7577
j.armour@cogeco.ca



Poet's Corner – Submitted by Gerald Anderson

A PRAYER

Let me do my work each day; and if the darkened hours of despair
overcome me, may I not forget the strength that comforted me
in the desolation of other times.

May I still remember the bright hours that found me walking over
the silent hills of my childhood, or dreaming on the margin of a quiet
river, when a light glowed within me, and I promised my early God
to have courage amid the tempests of the changing years.

Spare me from bitterness and from the sharp passions of unguarded
moments. May I not forget that poverty and riches are of the spirit.
Though the world knows me not, may my thoughts and actions be
such as shall keep me friendly with myself.

Lift up my eyes from the earth, and let me not forget the uses of the
stars. Forbid that I should judge others lest I condemn myself.
Let me not follow the clamor of the world, but walk calmly in my
path.

Give me a few friends who will love me for what I am; and keep ever
burning before my vagrant steps the kindly light of hope.

And though age and infirmity overtake me, and I come not within
sight of the castle of my dreams, teach me still to be thankful for
life, and for time's olden memories that are good and sweet; and
may the evening's twilight find me gentle still.

Max Ehrmann

BLOW BLOW THOU WINTER WIND

Blow, blow, thou winter wind
Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude;
Thy tooth is not so keen,
Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.

Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly:
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:
Then heigh-ho, the holly!
This life is most jolly.

Freeze, freeze thou bitter sky,
That does not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot:
Though thou the waters warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp
As a friend remembered not.
Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly:
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:
Then heigh-ho, the holly!
This life is most jolly.

William Shakespeare



ON VISITING THE TOMB OF BURNS

The town, the churchyard, and the setting sun,
The clouds, the trees, the rounded hills all seem,
Though beautiful, cold — strange — as in a dream
I dreamed long ago, now new begun.
The short-liv'd, paly summer is but won
From winter's ague for one hour's gleam;
Through sapphire warm their stars do never beam:
All is cold Beauty; pain is never done.
For who has mind to relish, Minos-wise,
The real of Beauty, free from that dead hue
Sickly imagination and sick pride
Cast wan upon it? Burns! with honour due
I oft have honour'd thee. Great shadow, hide
Thy face; I sin against thy native skies.

John Keates