



St. Paul's is a family, commissioned by Christ, gathered together in faith to glorify God and nurture spiritual growth through worship and service.



**Our Sunday
Service begins at
10:45 AM.
We are located at
319 Prescott
Street at the
corner of Mary.**

St. Paul's Matters

www.stpaulskemptville.ca

Winter - 2011

A New Year of Hopes, Goals, Challenges and Growth

Dear Members & Friends of St. Paul's,

*For unto you is born this day in the city of
David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:11*

That's the message we celebrate, in so many ways, in the months to come. We give thanks that our Lord Jesus was born into this world to show us the love of God, and the life God intends for all people.

As we go forward into a new year of hopes, goals, challenges and growth, it is fitting and proper that we pause to think about Christ's love for us.

Jesus Christ, who is the incarnated God and King of kings and Lord of lords, loved us so much that He came down to this world on Christmas day to help us in our distress and need.

Although we are sinners, Christ loved us so much and gave up His life to save us from our sins. Christ's love has made us holy and righteous people in the sight of God. Christ's love moves Him to listen to our prayers for help and deliverance. Christ's love provides our needs daily, protects us from all evil and gives us eternal life and joy in His heavenly Kingdom.

Christ's love has also been evident in our congregation during the year 2011. His love enabled us to celebrate our church's 160th anniversary. People who attended our anniversary events agreed that they were uplifting and enjoyable. More significantly, our

celebrations gave glory to God for His amazing grace in the life of St. Paul's Congregation from generation to generation.

Furthermore, Christ's love has blessed our efforts to improve our house of worship. The new accessible washroom, the new nursery room, the new church office and the new sanctuary platform are completed at a cost which was less than expected. A big thank you to Cathy and Steve Verhey for their excellent work and to all those who donated their time, money and talents to help St. Paul's be a better place of worship.



During 2011, Christ's love also enabled us to support financially several missions. More importantly, Christ's love has helped St. Paul's Congregation to grow in faith and love to one another through worship, discipleship, fellowship and service to others.

This amazing and unlimited love of Christ calls us today and everyday to serve Him faithfully and diligently. As we look forward to a new year and to His coming into our lives on a daily basis, I pray for God's blessings on our work and mission here at St. Paul's and for the power of the Holy Spirit to help and guide us to share God's Word with others.

May Christ's love bless you this season and may you take the time and opportunity to be a blessing to someone else.

Have a blessed Christmas and a Christ-filled New Year.

Rev. Samer Kandalaft

Christmas Luminaries - Submitted by Grant & Dorothy Leeder



There are so many ways to remember those who are no longer with us at Christmas. Our family has developed a tradition that is quite unique.

Our son Mark, brother of Kevin, died December 22, 1990 at the age of 17. Mark's Aunt, Marian Goodell in Westport was lighting luminaries the very night that Mark died and vowed she would do it every year on that date.

Luminaries are candlelight lanterns that have become a Christmas Eve tradition in many parts of the world.

The custom originated in Spain, where lighted oil lamps were placed in windows and bonfires of bows were set ablaze at dusk to guide the Christ Child to each home. The practice was continued by the Spanish in Mexico and later spread northward.

The lanterns are simple to make by weighting paper bags with sand, for stability and safety, and nestling a candle firmly into the sand. The soft glowing lanterns are then used to line driveways, sidewalks, garden walks and curb sides.

Mark was buried in Knox Presbyterian Cemetery in Westport, a picturesque sight overlooking the Rideau Lake. On December 22, 1991 friends and family lit 400 luminaries in Westport to commemorate the joy and spirit filled life of Mark. Although the date chosen is not traditional, it is one with special meaning to the family. The response to the celebration was a spontaneous joining in by many family, friends and villagers in Westport for many years.

We now continue this tradition by lighting approximately 200 candles along the driveways of our home and that of Kevin, Angie, Morgan and Braden Leeder, the Sunday before Christmas.

"Milad Majid" From The Kandalaft Family

Syria and Lebanon are the only Middle East countries where Christmas is an official holiday. At the beginning of December, Christmas lights, decorations and Christmas songs fill the streets of many cities and towns. Homes are also decorated with Christmas trees and Nativity scenes made from brown paper. People greet each other on saying "Milad Majid", which means Merry Christmas in Arabic.

On Christmas Eve, the church bells ring in the cities and towns as people go to church in their new clothes. Churches are open for midnight worship services, while at homes families and friends gather around their Christmas dinner for an evening of celebration. Christmas dinner often features meat or chicken, tabouleh, wine, mezza (appetizers) which is a variety of flavourful hot and cold small dishes, and the dessert is "Bûche de Noël", a French Christmas cake decorated to look like a tree log. The children await the arrival of their gifts, which are brought late on Christmas Eve by Papa Noel (Santa Claus) who puts their gifts under the tree.

In Lebanon, about two weeks before Christmas people plant chickpea seeds, wheat grains and beans in cotton wool. They water the seeds every day and by Christmas the seeds have shoots about 6 inches in height. People use the shoots to surround the manger in nativity scenes.

Traditionally in Syria and Lebanon on Christmas morning everyone goes to church. After church, people visit relatives and friends and are offered coffee, liqueurs and sugared almonds. At lunch time on Christmas Day the whole family gather together usually at the grandparents or the eldest sons' home. Christmas in Syria and Lebanon means family.

As we celebrate this Christmas with our family who have come from Syria, we pray that you too enjoy your time with your parents, children and grandchildren. May the Child of Bethlehem fill your hearts with joy and peace as you celebrate His birthday. Milad Majid"



Christmas Celebrations in Beirut

Congratulations to Megan Wood Pagonis!



While attending the University of British Columbia, Megan Wood Pagonis had the opportunity to participate in a project that was recently published in the Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research (September 2011).

The article was entitled "Content and Form in the Narratives of Children with Specific Language Impairment". Along with Megan, the other co-authors were Paola Colozzo, UBC; Ronald B. Gillam, Utah State University; Rebecca D. Schnell, University of Texas at Austin; and Judith R. Johnston, UBC.

Submitted by Susan Wood

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 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED

HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE HELD ON:

April 1, 2012

June 3, 2012

October 7, 2012

The Ornaments on Our Church Tree - Submitted by Colleen Dibb

This was a year of firsts for our tradition of adding the faces of St. Paul's children to the Christmas Tree. For the first time ever, I wasn't there to hand out the ornaments and Nancy Messenger had to fill in for me. (Thank you, Nancy.) We also added 8 children to our tree in 2011 - which is a record. When all churches are struggling to attract and keep young families, this is a great compliment for our congregation.

The other first is that we've started attaching children's ornaments to their parents. Never did I imagine I would still be doing this so many years later, but it is most definitely my honour to welcome all these treasures to the St. Paul's family. Wendy Blaine was the first with Garrit and Gracie. We added Cadence on to Cheryl Stark (Easingwood) and Emily and Rachel will be added on to Stacey Wood (Hill). This is a small twist on our tradition but it seemed right to me that all of our children would know this is their family home church and they and their children are welcome here always.

There are well over 100 ornaments on the tree and each year I lay them all out and my mind goes back to each and everyone of them with love. I hope they all know they're still here in my heart and on our tree.

Many of them come home over Christmas and I watch them check the tree for their ornaments. Occasionally, someone will ask to replace the picture with a more recent one or a more flattering one. The answer is always the same: In my eyes you were perfect. Why would I change it?

Our ornament tradition started with simple pictures on juice lids. It is now the centre piece of my Christmas. I hope the children of our congregation - young and old - take that feeling of belonging here at St. Paul's with them wherever they go.



Look Who's 40?? - Submitted by Diane & Allan Jorgensen



This year marks the 40th anniversary of ordination to Christian ministry of the Reverend Allan Jorgensen. He graduated from Acadia Divinity College, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, in a small class of 8 graduates in 1971. He was recognized in June by our Baptist Convention as now being in "The Over Forty Club".

Other news in our family is that our daughter, Karin and son-in-law, Scott, have started up a coffee roasting business out of their home. It is called No Go Coffee Co. (they live in North Gower), and they sell Fair Trade, Organic coffee. Locally, their coffee is being sold at the B&H store here in Kemptville and at stores in North Gower, Manotick, Stittsville, as well as the North Gower Farmer's Market. No Go Coffee Co. has a website if you are curious to check it out.

We have now lived in Kemptville for over 2 years and enjoy the community here very much and especially appreciate the church family at St. Paul's. Often, we find ourselves away on weekends, which is a whole new experience for us to have weekends free since retiring in 2007, after 40 years in ministry.

Ho! Ho! Ho! - Christmas Jokes Submitted by Mark Kandalajt

Q- What do Elves learn in school?

A -The elf-abet

Q- What is the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?

A - The Christmas alphabet has No L (Noel)

Q- What Christmas Carol is a favourite of parents?

A - Silent Night

Q- What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

A - Frosted Flakes

Christmas Potluck and Concert - Submitted by Annie Blaine

On Saturday, December 3, 2011 at 6:00PM, members of St. Paul's met for our annual Christmas Potluck Dinner. As always, the food was bountiful and delicious! Thank you to Sharon Côté and her kitchen helpers for organizing the food.

After dinner, we adjourned to the sanctuary for an "Old

Fashioned Christmas Concert". Annie Blaine welcomed everyone and opened the program with everyone singing "Silver Bells" with Steve Verhey at the keyboard.

Our first entertainment was provided by the Kandalaft Family. First, Mark entertained us with a piano solo. Then Shahrzad appeared on stage in a colourful costume native to her country, and she performed a beautiful "Harvest Dance". She then invited some of our young ladies to join her in repeating the dance. The audience loved it!!

Next on the program was Janet Stark who sang her version of the "Auctioneer Song". Janet was definitely a fast talker!!

Then a ladies trio consisting of Ruth Bond, Eileen Chambers and Annie Blaine sang a lovely three-part version of "Silent Night" accompanied by Steve Verhey on keyboard.

Taking centre stage next was Skyler Green who played the "Christmas Song" on her saxophone. Well done, Skyler! Then her sister Sydney wowed us all with her magic show....we were all left wondering, "How did she do that?"

Janet & Roger Stark amused the audience with their husband-and-wife version of "The 12 Days of Christmas".

The Armour Family was represented by Catherine and William who performed a beautiful rendition of a popular song called, "Someone Like You". Catherine's singing was accompanied by her brother William on guitar and Steve Verhey on keyboard. We look forward to hearing more from these

two young people!!

Janet Stark then presented a short power-point presentation called "Caleb's Coat", a selection of Christmas Carols and a short story about a shepherd boy and his coat.

The "Men's Choir" consisting of Paul Chambers, Jim Armour, Roger Stark, Donald Messenger and David Carmichael entertained the audience with their hilarious version of "Nuttin" for Christmas"!! Annie was very proud of her boys!! Thank you to Steve for his great accompani-



ment on keyboard!

Annie thanked everyone for their participation in the evening, Samer lead us in the benediction and we closed with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".

This was a wonderful evening for our church family. Special thanks to all who shared their talents with us. The audience was very appreciative!!

Thank you to all who helped to set up the stage, reset the stage after the concert for Sunday Service, and to all who helped wash dishes and clean up the kitchen. Many hands always make quick work!!

Gingerbread and Pizza Party

On Friday, November 25, the Church School hosted a Gingerbread and Pizza Party for St. Paul's families and friends.

Seventy-five people attended and all enjoyed good food and good fellowship and a chance to show off their artistic skills as they decorated gingerbread houses.

In all, fifty houses were judged and winners, in several age categories, were chosen. St. Paul's Youth Group provided activities for the children as they arrived.

The evening was a wonderful event providing both fellowship for Church members and an outreach to the community.

For photos of the event, go to www.stpaulskemptville.ca and click on picture archives.



Babies, Bibles and Books - Submitted by Sharon Côté



Ezri Rose, 8W1D, 2011-12-08, 11:37 am

As a proud, first-time grandmother, I just had to share this very cute picture of Ezri Rose Côté Keays who was born on October 12th of this year. She's almost two months in this photo and has a terrific smile.

While I'm on the subject of kids, I would like to announce that 35 Bibles for toddlers to teenagers have been ordered by members of St. Paul's for their children and grandchildren.

A big thank you to the Session who underwrote a portion of the cost for each Bible. Their generosity made a real difference at a time of the year when money grows scarce.

I hope everyone will enjoy reading to their little children or helping the older ones understand what they are reading so they will be Bible-literate members as they grow in the faith.

Regarding the Library itself, we have added two new books. *Final Gifts* by Maggie Callahan and Patricia Kelly is a book about the last days of patients in hospice care. Rather than being a series of somber stories, it is surprising how uplifting the time can be with people facing the end of their lives with courage and sometimes humour. The other book is *Finding Father Christmas* by Robin Jones Gunn that Cathy Verhey has reviewed below.

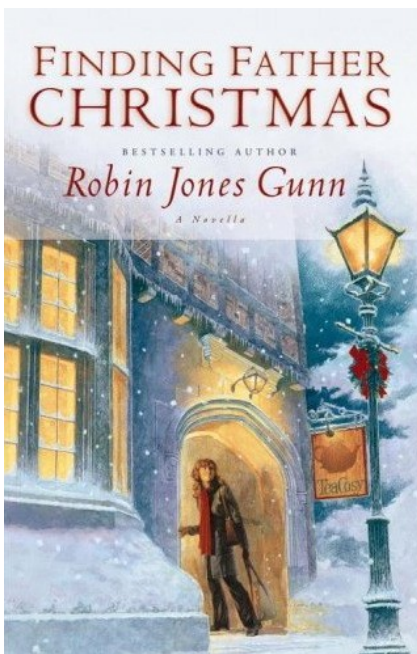
Come and browse the rest of our collection during the coffee hour!

Finding Father Christmas by Robin Jones Gunn

Miranda Carson's search for her father takes a turn she never expected when she finds herself in England with only a few feeble clues as to who he might be. Unexpectedly welcomed into a family that doesn't recognize her and whom she's quickly coming to love, she faces a terrible decision.

Should she reveal her true identity and destroy their idyllic image of her father? Or should she carry the truth home with her to San Francisco and remain alone in this world? Whatever choice she makes during this Christmas will forever change the future for both her and the family she can't bear to leave.

If you like a feel good story then this is the book for you. Set in a small village outside of London, it has all the



elements of a good read for Christmas including the gentle snow fall, the roasted turkey, the fire in the hearth and the hint of pine in the air. It reads like a modern day fairy tale and leaves one with the feeling that the world is a good and loving place after all.

The book is not large and the writing style quite pleasant. If this appeals to you, consider having a look. Know also that the book has a sequel entitled "Engaging Father Christmas"

Submitted by Cathy Verhey
If you would like to review a book
for the next newsletter,
please speak to Sharon Côté
or Jim Armour

It's a Small World - Submitted by Jenn Green

After hearing "A Moment in Time" entitled "Brother Henderson" read by Donald Messenger, I had to tell people how the Reverend Llyod Henderson was a large part of my family history in Portage la Prairie while growing up. It made me realize what a small world it is. Here are a few points of interest:

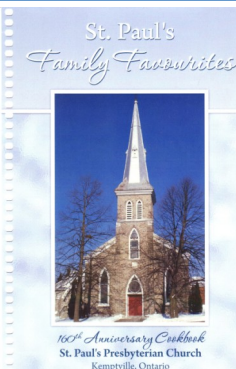
- In the 1950's Reverend Henderson was a big help to immigrant families one of which was my father's family - The Bruinooges from Holland.
- Once my parents started dating, my mother also joined the church and Rev. Henderson married my mother and father back in December 1964.
- Reverend Henderson started a kindergarten before it was in the school system and my mother taught there for two years- it was held in the North End at Prosvita Hall.
- Reverend Llyod Henderson christened me and my 4 siblings.
- My siblings and I (and the Core kids - our friends) were the whole junior choir.
- Reverend Llyod Henderson started church camps in the summers at Delta Beach (where my mother cooked one year) and I attended.
- Rev. Henderson married a lot of my aunts and uncles on my father's side and christened at least 12 of their kids.
- We moved to Winnipeg and it took over 9 years before people knew because we were in the Portage la Prairie Church every Sunday before transferring to St James Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg where my family still attends.
- When Reverend Llyod Henderson passed away, my Uncle Bill escorted Mrs Henderson back to Prince Edward Island to bury Rev Henderson.
- My father's family in the Portage la Prairie area still attend the Church to this day. My Tante Miep just celebrated her 80th birthday this past October at the Church.

Pots, Pans and Projects - Submitted by Judy Messenger & David Carmichael

Throughout the years, St. Paul's has had many excellent bakers and cooks. They excelled in the kitchen and made St. Paul's events memorable year after year. In this 160th Anniversary Cookbook, we remember both past and present church members and friends through the recipes that they shared.

Over the years, the St. Paul's kitchen is where friendships have been made and sustained. May the warmth of this fellowship be felt once again as we use the tried and true recipes of the past and the new recipes of the present.

The Cookbook Committee thanks everyone



who contributed recipes to this book and has purchased a copy. At only \$10, it makes a great last minute Christmas or New Year's gift!

The cookbook was a project of the Church School and the Goforth Auxiliary of the WMS. Other St. Paul's projects in 2011 were: the Christmas Child Shoeboxes (50 from Mountain and 51 from Kemptville) and \$1,000 for Gracefield Camp. The St. Paul's Mission Committee will be deciding on its 2012 projects soon.

With so much need, it is always a challenge to narrow things down but whatever is decided, St. Paul's is always quick to offer its support!

The Stark Facts for 2011 - Submitted by Roger and Janet Stark

This past year was a busy one for the Stark Family - especially for Cheryl, her husband Cory and our brand new granddaughter Cadence.

As if being new parents wasn't enough of a change, the Stark/Easingwood clan moved two hours outside of Edmonton to a ranch in a town of less than 600. They've bought two horses, a donkey and are loving country life. It should be a fun first Christmas for Cady!

Laura is now finished her studies at Carleton University and will soon graduate with a BA in Criminology and Criminal Justice AND a BSc with a focus on Forensic Science. But, she has even bigger news than that to share. On January 21, 2012, Laura will be getting married to Joseph Peat in a small family ceremony. Laura and Joseph met while tree planting out West and we're

glad to see that they're planning to put down some roots.

Over the summer, Cheryl, Mike and Laura were all under

one roof for the first time in a long time. Mike was there to spend 3 months working on the rigs where he quickly moved up from lease-hand to roughneck. He's also been to New Brunswick, Thunder Bay and Southern Ontario visiting family and friends. At this rate, he will have travelled all of Canada by next summer!

In case you thought it was just the kids who were having fun, Janet and her mother took the train across the country to celebrate

her mother's 80th birthday! They stopped at Cheryl's house and - as you see in the picture - we had four generations together.

It's been an amazing year and we will keep counting our blessings in 2012.



A Different Christmas Poem - Submitted by Ray and Josie Porter

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light, I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight. My wife was asleep, her head on my chest, my daughter beside me, angelic in rest. Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white, Transforming the yard to a winter delight.

The sparkling lights in the tree I believe, completed the magic that was Christmas Eve. My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep, secure and surrounded by love I would sleep. In perfect contentment, or so it would seem, so slumbered I, perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near, but I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear. Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know, then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.

My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear, and I crept to the door just to see who was near. Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night, a lone figure stood, his face weary and tight. A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old, perhaps a Trooper, huddled here in the cold.

Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled, standing watch over me, and my wife and my child. "What are you doing?" I asked without fear, "Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!

Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve, you should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!" For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift, away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts. To the window that danced with a warm fire's light then he sighed and he said "It's really all right, I'm out here

by choice. I'm here every night." "It's my duty to stand at the front of the line, that separates you from the darkest of times.

No one had to ask or beg or implore me, I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me. My Gramps died in Europe on a day in December," then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram always remembers." I've not seen my own son in more than a while, but my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.

Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag, the red and the white. A Canadian flag. I can live through the cold and the being alone, away from my family, my house and my home. I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet, I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat. I can carry the weight of killing another, or lay down my life with my sister and brother. Who stand at the front against any and all, to ensure for all time that this flag will not fall."

"So go back inside," he said, "harbour no fright. Your family is waiting and I'll be all right." "But isn't there something I can do, at the least? Give

you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast? It seems all too little for all that you've done, for being away from your wife and your son."

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret, "Just tell us you love us, and never forget. To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone, to stand your own watch, no matter how long. For when we come home, either standing or dead, to know you remember we fought and we bled. Is payment enough, and with that we will trust, that we mattered to you as you mattered to us."



Prayer for the New Year - Submitted by Shahrzad Kandalaft

As Christians we are reminded through the mystery of the Incarnation that we cross the threshold into a New Year not alone – "Emmanuel" God is with us. Thanks be to God!

This is a prayer for the New Year written by Bishop Will Willimon of the United Methodist Church, USA. May it be our prayer for 2012 and may we all find the love, peace, hope, joy and light of Christ in every day of this New Year.

Blessings, Shahrzad Kandalaft

Prayer for the New Year

By your grace, dear Lord, you have given us this New Year. We give you thanks for more time to enjoy your goodness, more time to serve you, another year to show forth your glory that all may see your light shine through us and might come to faith in your Lordship and membership in your Kingdom. Continue, Lord, to make all things new, even



us. We move into a new year with some fears about the future. Give us faith that we venture into a New Year led by you and that you will give us all we need faithfully to serve you and courageously to follow you where you lead us.

Bless your church, we pray, set today amid new challenges and new threats. Give us what we need to meet the challenges and enable us not to be intimidated by the threats. Inspire us with a fresh sense of the power and the urgency of your gospel. Fill our congregation with renewed vitality for the tasks that are set before them. Give us, we are bold to pray, wisdom, grace, and courage equal to the assignments that you will give us during the coming year. Help us to have half as much faith in ourselves and our discipleship as you have placed in us by calling us to be your disciples.

For all that has been, we give thanks. For all that is to be, we ask you would guide us and give us courage to be half as faithful to you in the New Year as you have been to us in the past. Amen.