



# 2021 Annual Report

454 Rebecca St., Oakville, ON L6K 1K7

T: 905-845-3427

F: 905-845-3428

[office@stpaulsoakville.com](mailto:office@stpaulsoakville.com)



**Affirm/S'affirmer**  
UNITED/ENSEMBLE

**CONTENTS**

---

**UP FRONT**

Our Vision and Mission..... 2  
 In Memoriam ..... 3  
 Council & Team Membership ..... 4

**A MESSAGE FROM...**

Deborah Laforet, *Lead Minister* ..... 6  
 Carolyn Smith, *Minister of Pastoral Care* ..... 7  
 Catherine Arcand-Pinette, *Director of Music*..... 8  
 Tracy Mitchell, *Children’s Programming Developer*..... 9  
 Kent Palmer, *Chair of Council* ..... 10  
 Kent Palmer, *Chair, St. Paul’s Board of Trustees* ..... 10

**TEAM REPORTS**

Affirming..... 11  
 Capital Projects ..... 12  
 Communication..... 13  
 Community and Faith Formation ..... 13  
 Finance ..... 13  
 Mental Health & Wellness..... 14  
 Mission ..... 14  
 Nurturing Care ..... 15  
 Outreach..... 16  
 Property..... 16  
 Refugee Sponsorship..... 18  
 Stewardship ..... 18  
 United Church Women (UCW)..... 19  
 Worship ..... 20

**MUSIC PROGRAMS**

The Joyful Noise ..... 20

**OTHER PROGRAMS & EVENTS**

Tots & Us ..... 20  
 Pubs & Pews ..... 21  
 Holiday Jingle Bazaar..... 21  
 Guiding at St. Paul’s ..... 22  
 7<sup>th</sup> Trafalgar Scout Group ..... 23

**APPENDIX**

Meeting Minutes: 2021 Annual Meeting (*Sunday March 21, 2021*)..... 26



**IN MEMORIAM**

***In life,  
In death,  
In life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.***

***Thanks be to God.***

---

These are the names of those individuals who passed away in 2021 and who were included in St. Paul's Church membership records at the time of their passing.

We celebrate and give thanks for their lives and for the lasting impact they have had upon us.

We trust them to God's eternal care.

*William C. Barnes  
Isabel Joyce Clawson  
Peggy Jane Irene Cooper  
John Peter Curran  
Ruth Margaret Deyman  
Patricia Susan Ebbs  
Adelaide (Moore) Goulding  
Jeanne Regina Green  
Eldon Frederick Holden  
Dean Lowther  
Patricia Elizabeth Milthorpe  
Venetia Jean Binns Ruzzi  
Shirley Anne Wilding  
Lloyd George Wilson  
Walter Young*

COUNCIL & TEAM MEMBERSHIP

**COUNCIL EXECUTIVE\***

\*Denotes teams who are formally *represented on Council*

Kent Palmer - Chair  
 Thea Sheridan-Jonah – Vice Chair  
 Candace Allen - Secretary  
 Darren Pinette - Finance Chair

The names of those in *italics* are people who stepped in to help a team in 2021, though not members of the team. We are very thankful for their support.

**Affirming Team\***

Thea Sheridan-Jonah (Chair)  
 Judy DeMone  
 Chris Taehyung Lee  
 Kristina Kriston

**Board of Trustees\***

Kent Palmer (Chair)  
 Brad Neufeld  
 Frank O'Byrne  
 Jennifer Pham-MacMillan  
 Bev Phillips

**Capital Projects Team\***

Harold DeVenne (Chair)  
 Darren Pinette (Finance)  
 David Crown

**Communications Team\***

Candace Allen (Chair)  
 Jessie Fan  
 Anthony Lucic  
 Margaret White  
 Greg Carson  
 Ruth Holloway

**Community & Faith Formation\***

Fully Vacant

**Finance Team\***

Darren Pinette (Chair)  
 Ron Shermet  
 Grace Jeong – Treasurer  
*Judy DeMone*

**Horseshoe Falls Region\***

Harold DeVenne

**Mental Health & Wellness\***

Harold DeVenne (Chair)  
 Carilyn McNaught  
 Rob Phillips  
 Jay Smith  
 Shirley-Anne Cooper-Maimot

**Ministry & Personnel\***

Vacant (Chair)  
 Pat Freedman  
 Sharon Wiese  
 Candace Allen  
 Pat Mason  
 Darlene Cox

**Mission Team\***

Harold DeVenne (Chair)  
 Jeff Kargus  
 Allyson Neufeld  
 Jennifer Pham-MacMillan

**Nurturing Care Team\***

Carilyn McNaught (Chair)  
 Judy DeVenne  
 B.J. Young  
 Jackie O'Byrne

**Oakville Ready Team**

Harold DeVenne (Chair)

**Outreach Team\***

Shirley-Anne Cooper-Maimot (Chair)  
 Thea Sheridan-Jonah  
 Kristina Kriston  
 Selina Bajorek

**Property Team\***

Vacant (Chair)  
 Tom Allen  
 Bryan MacMillan  
 Michele Swanson-Mousley

*There were so many volunteers who stepped in to help – see report*

**Refugee Sponsorship Team**

Pat Mason (Chair)  
 Selina Bajorek  
 Bev Phillips

**Stewardship Team\***

Michele Swanson-Mousley (Chair)  
 Jeff Laforet  
 Ron Shermet  
 Rhiannon Filip  
 Judy DeMone  
 Jessie Fan

**Worship Team\***

Kristina Kriston (Chair)  
 Carol Anne Hunt  
 Fay Copland  
 Rachel Couban  
 Chris Taehyung Lee  
 Thea Sheridan-Jonah

**Fellowship Team**

Rob Phillips  
 - Coffee Co-Ordinator

**Memorial Team**

Kent Palmer  
 Kristina Kriston  
 Darren Pinette  
 C&FF Representative

**Interim Count Team**

Ron Shermet  
 Bert Fonseca  
*Judy DeMone*

**Garden Team**

Frank O'Byrne  
 Jackie O'Byrne  
*Emily Dilauro  
 Oliver and Griffin Baker  
 Chad Baker*

**Library Team**

VACANT (Lead)

Irene Carson

Marion Cumming

Cynthia Steneveld

Margaret White

Sharon Wiese

Janis Fournier

**UCW Leadership Group**

Pat Mason - Treasurer

Helga de Lint - Communication

Terry Farris - Secretary

Joan Ford and Velma Ivey– Funeral Outreach

Irene Murray – Membership

Carilyn McNaught – Unit Leader and Council Representative

Unit Leaders – Sharin Wiese, Cynthia Steneveld, Catherine Arcand-Pinette

**NOTES:**

We gratefully acknowledge both ***Deborah Laforet*** and ***Carolyn Smith*** for their direct involvement with, and support of, many of these teams.

We recognize and thank any teams or team members who are not listed or may have been missed above for their time, energy and dedication in supporting the ongoing work of St. Paul's

### **DEBORAH LAFORET – Lead Minister, St. Paul's United Church**

---

Instead of reviewing my year, I'd like to share with you a story. During the first couple of months of this year, 2022, we explored parables. I created a number of videos where I shared the parables through the Godly Play method. In unpacking the parables, I was literally unpacking all the materials for Godly Play, opening boxes that had not been opened in years, unsure of what I would find.

Our last parable was, "The Parable of Parables," not a parable of Jesus but a parable about parables. This parable consists of boxes within boxes. When I took out the boxes to rehearse the story, I discovered a surprise. As I reached the last box, the tiniest of boxes, my job was to pretend to take something from the box, hold it up, and say, "It's hard to see, isn't it?" but when I looked into that box, I found a tiny slip of paper. Long ago, a child had decided to write a secret message and put it into that little box. It said, "I love you." I put the message back in the box, and packed up the boxes again, one by one, box within a box.



Any other time, I would have smiled, wondered who could have written it, and moved on. Seeing that little message, though, filled me with emotion. I did smile, I did wonder who had written it, but I also was in awe of the gift of those three words, put into a tiny box for someone, someday, to discover. The love that went into that message filled me and has obviously stuck with me.

It's been that kind of year. It feels like we have gone through many boxes. We think we're on the last one and then another appears, and we begin to wonder if we will ever reach the end. As with most stories, there is meaning here. For me, I'm reminded that one day, we will reach the last box and that last box will hold something unexpected and beautiful. We will then pack it up again, pack up the rest of the boxes, and start over. For every ending there is a beginning and for every beginning there is an ending, an important lesson we learn in Godly Play and in our bible.

We often talk about the "new normal" coming out of this pandemic. Some of us would like to go back to the "old normal." I wonder if, after we have opened all the boxes, we will need to pause and find the tiny gift within. It will be hard to see, but it will be there. As we pack up the boxes, the lessons learned, the moments experienced, the struggles and challenges, we hold onto that beautiful and unexpected gift and enter into a new beginning with courage, faith, and love.

Discovering that tiny message inside the tiny box felt like a special message just for me. Now it's time to share it. "I love you." St. Paul's is a very special place for me, and I know many of you feel the same way. I look forward to seeing you there, but I also know that St. Paul's is not just a place, but a vibrant and caring community of faith. I look forward to connecting with you this year, in whatever way that happens.

With love,  
Deborah

**CAROLYN SMITH – Minister of Pastoral Care, St. Paul's United Church**

---

In the fall of 2020, we heard a sermon by Alexa Gilmour at Regional Council about being “*Resurrection Specialists.*” Deborah & I grinned about that idea- reminding ourselves first, and the world and real people about trusting in new days, holding hope, and putting one foot in front of the other, especially when life is hard!

There are churches and groups, programs and people who have struggled to live hopefully, but St. Paul's is alive, creative and responding, always nurturing our circle.

This circle draws people in! Our phone tree callers named in Nurturing Care's report are my heroes. We're caring for people who miss church, cheering each other on for our efforts in getting vaccinated, keeping distance, having patience. We take over soup or a card, and brighten up long quiet weeks. Pastoral care is offered by hospital and home visits, wonderful phone calls, zoom, text, email, Facebook and messenger. whatever works. We've offered baptism, funerals and the Longest Night service, with a personalized, intimate and meaningful intention. We managed visiting circles at church in the sunshine and the Affirm team will revisit the newcomers online gathering. Our circle now includes more people and has kept folks across the country and farther.

The key is meaningful community, however possible. Our online services grew into a sense of community and I'm thrilled at everyone's eager participation. Remember the hiking Lenten journey & photos, and all the music? Where so many congregations have a frazzled minister or musician scrambling each week, Deborah first, & I have been encouraged to grow our capabilities and creativity by your embrace of weekly worship. And with Jeff & Jay, we worship AND we laugh and keep in touch! A few weeks of in-person church was energizing, but we heard, no matter what, Sunday Service was Spirit-filled and spirit-filling.

I hear that echoed in my work at Horseshoe Falls Covenant Commission supporting several communities of faith through amalgamations, reorganizing and closing. Each time, I'm inspired by the determination at St. Paul's. I'm relieved that we have a staff team like Jeanne, Tracy, Catherine and Deborah happy to make this all work, and the support of our M&P, Council and committees to thrive.

Learning continues all the time - technical learning, online community, ongoing realities of grief support and MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying) resources, as well as justice reading and deepening. I took time for learning Enneagram and spiritual perspectives, mental health supports, and a personal interest: church renewal in changing times. Does the community say good things about us? Yes! Remember our Ribbons for 'Every Child Matters?' Our 'Hate has No Home Here' sign program, our rainbow masks and Affirm write-up in the paper, plus the collaboration with Oakville Ready? Yes! we make a difference to our neighbours.

We matter to one another, so we are all 'resurrection specialists:' We create this congregation of St. Paul's every day. God is alive in the world, rising with energy and possibility all the time. Amen!!



**CATHERINE ARCAND-PINETTE, MMus– Director of Music, *St. Paul's United Church***

---

2021 continued to be a year with many challenges, but also with so many rewarding experiences within the music of St. Paul's. With COVID proving to be a longer lasting adversary than many of us had hoped, the music at St. Paul's has mainly had to be digital. The choir has been meeting weekly on Thursday evenings from 7pm-8pm via Zoom where we learn music in our homes to be recorded and amalgamated into the beautiful pieces you have been enjoying on Sunday mornings. In September, the COVID numbers seemed to be decreasing and so we were able to offer a hybrid choir rehearsal with some people singing masked with me in the sanctuary, while others remained at home learning via Zoom. I was very hopeful that we were turning a corner and could begin to offer choir music again live from the Sanctuary, but with the emergence of a very contagious variant, that wasn't meant to be and we were forced back online just before Christmas. We currently have about 16 regular choir members, but we are always happy to include new members if anyone would like to try a Zoom rehearsal! There are practice tracks recorded for everything we sing so that you can practice at home, and all the music is easy to access online through a link.

This year, the choir has recorded 17 beautiful anthems and I have created countless hymns and pieces of special music that can be used for years to come. The Joyful Noise was able to add their voices to a song for Easter, the Variety Show and for Christmas. The Worship Band created a wonderful recorded arrangement of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel/Rise Up Shepherds and Do you Hear What I Hear. So, even in a pandemic, the music at St. Paul's continues to be vibrant and relevant. The online format allows singers to take part in choir from Toronto, Georgetown and even PEI, and the choir members are now such pros at recording that it has been suggested that from time to time, once we are open again, we continue to do these recorded anthems so that we can include these members from afar, as well as incorporate the visual slide show component that many have appreciated through this challenging time.

Outside of the regular choirs and Worship band, there were many exciting musical things happening this year. We decided also to undertake the project of an online Variety Show, which premiered in November to much acclaim! Thanks to Rob Phillips for spearheading that effort. In the Spring, I was asked by the Region to put together a virtual Youth choir of Youth from all over Canada for their Pride Affirming Celebration. I was so honoured to be asked to do this and was able to produce and incredible piece of music for that service.

I continue to be blessed with guest musicians lending their talents to my recorded music. Chris Arcand continues to be a large contributor of guitar music. Ella Pinette and Juliana Hauck shared their voices in a beautiful duet in September, and Peter Barber sang a solo in Lent. I am also thankful to my friend Sara White in Montague, PEI for sharing her voice on numerous recordings. Sara's mother, Anne, is the organist/choir director at Hillcrest United in Montague, PEI.

We now have a digital library of over 70 pieces of special music videos which include Choir Anthems, Joyful Noise performances, JR Worship Band, Worship Band, Soloists and Duets. We also have a library of almost 200 recorded Hymns that I have been able to share with other churches to help enrich their services as well. With the purchase of a new recording microphone, pre-amp and the use of a new recording platform, I feel I am now able to produce professional quality recordings each Sunday. I have been very proud of the level of music I have been able to produce throughout the pandemic, and although it has been a learning curve, I feel that the music is a valued and impactful piece of Sunday online worship.

Always looking for ways to connect in this challenging time, we hosted 2 hymn sing events. We did a live hymn sing outdoors at the end of the summer and we did a hybrid carol sing before Christmas that had people singing live in the Sanctuary with masks on as well as a live stream via Facebook Live. These events were both well attended and well received. Keep your eyes peeled for more of these events in the future.

I am hopeful that we will soon be able to begin singing together in person, even if it means being masked. Although I am grateful for the ability to continue to create and share music with the congregation and the choirs through the pandemic, I miss hearing the rich harmonies in person and having that personal connection that making music together can bring. I think, moving forward, we will continue to occasionally have recorded music as part of the service, since it allows people to be a part of the music of St. Paul's who otherwise might not have been able to. I am so fortunate to have a choir who is willing to record content for me on such a regular basis. I know many other churches throughout the pandemic that have either had to put their choirs on hold or only create one or two pieces a season. Our choir is diligently working through enough music that they are sharing their voices sometimes bimonthly! Although putting these pieces and videos together is labour intensive, it is also a labour of love. It is sort of amazing to realize that in March of 2022, I will have been doing the job of "Director of Music" for 2 years but will never have played live for a service in all of that time! I am blessed that I have been able to use my skills to keep the music at St. Paul's relevant and vibrant through this changing season.

"There is music in the air, music all around us; the world is full of it, and you simply take as much as you require." – Edward Elgar

I hope I have given you at least as much as you require and perhaps more than you realized you needed.

### **TRACY MITCHELL – Children's Programming Developer, St. Paul's United Church**

#### **Sunday School (JK-grade 6)**

2021 was another year of constant change and adaptation for the children of St Paul's. We continue to meet online every Sunday morning for stories, games, crafts, and some *very* interesting discussions.

Our Vacation Bible School went online again this summer. Attendance was low, likely due to online burnout from so much online school. Those who attended, however, had a fabulous time and enjoyed our "cool" theme: The Knights of North Castle

We were lucky to have a window in the fall where it was safer to have some larger gatherings with the families of our Sunday school aged children. We enjoyed a noisy afternoon of bucket drumming in September, and in October we gathered outdoors at Lions Valley Park for pumpkin carving, park cleanup and a scavenger hunt.

Over the Christmas season the children produced another epic Christmas pageant movie! Young and old, we have learned so much about technology throughout the pandemic. This year we used green screen technology to produce our movie!

As we settle into another unpredictable year, we intend to stay connected in fun and interesting ways. Our children have so many great ideas!

Be well!

**KENT PALMER – Chair of Council, *St. Paul's United Church***

---

Ah...Hope. What a great feeling! 2021 started out with Hope surrounding me. We were getting vaccines into arms, our numbers began to go down. Hospitals were coping. We had a committee formed to discuss opening back up to in person service. I remember that feeling so well. And so I dream of going back again...

As Chair of Council I cannot help but look back on the past year and think how far we came, only to slip back to the beginning, once again. However, it does not feel as daunting a task today, moving forward, due to the lessons we learned from last year's leaders. For that we need to thank all those who got us through the last two years. We have all been blessed with an outstanding staff. Our ministers have led us through a very tough time. Deborah and Carolyn's creativity and compassion gave me, and I hope you, a feeling of belonging and strength in our welcoming church community. I am sure you would agree that the creative spark and tech savvy nature of Catherine, as our music director, has lifted us in many ways. I crank that stuff up on Sunday morning! Thank you Catherine. I also would like to give a shout out to Jeanne for keeping things going in the office over this odd year of closing and opening and closing again. While Jeff and Jay are not staff I do thank them for their tireless support of Deborah and Carolyn, as well as keeping us all up to date with their entertaining announcements every Sunday. Thanks guys. Next beer is on me.

I marvel at the love our church family has for us. The members who have stepped up to help lead us through these troubling times deserve our respect and appreciation. Without their (your) tireless dedication and hard work we would not be in the position we find ourselves. For myself, not as Chair of Council but as a simple member of St. Paul's, I want to give you all a huge hug. However, there is always more to do. We could always use more hands (and heads). As we move forward we look to a new governing body to lead our church. This presents an opportunity for you to join the leadership of this church and shape it moving forward. Help us make our St. Paul's the church you want it to be. Finally I thank you, the members of the congregation, for your ongoing contributions that you have pledged to our church. While we continue to struggle without the added income we would collect from our rental clients, you have continued to step up and help. These gifts make it possible for us to continue our mission.

I still embrace HOPE. How can I not? You give me that Hope. You give me Peace and Love and Joy as well, and not only during advent, but throughout the year.

Be good to your neighbours and be good to yourselves.

See you soon (I Hope!)

**KENT PALMER – Chair, *St. Paul's Board of Trustees***

---

The Trustees continue to attend to the matters of the manse. We are ready to move forward with the sale of the manse once all our ducks are in a row and the Town of Oakville has granted our severance. Until that time there is nothing of note to report.

**AFFIRMING – Thea Sheridan-Jonah, *Team Chair***

---

We have officially been an affirming church since November 21st, 2020. Wow. I still cannot thank this community enough for all their continued work as an affirming church. Most importantly I thank our committee made up of Kristina Kriston and Chris Lee, chaired by JudyDeMone and Thea Sheridan-Jonah, with the phenomenal support of Deborah Laforet and Carolyn Smith.

I know personally 2021 started with high hopes of "returning" to some sense of normalcy, but more than anything I think we have learned that what we think of as normal is simply changing. Online church services - almost normal. Coffee hour and Sunday school on zoom - almost normal. In some ways this made the opportunities we had to gather more exciting and for affirm this made all the work we were able to do more exciting.

This year we raised the rainbow flag as a public sign of being affirming but more than that we advocated through a letter sent to the HCSB supporting students in the Catholic school board who wanted their schools to raise the pride flag. Next, our work really started with our PIE day collaboration with Michael Blair the United Church General Secretary who presented on the importance of intersectionality. Then our rainbow mask sale and pride Sunday which included a baptism that celebrated the importance of being affirming not just within our community but to expand our community. Lastly our book drive to diversify our church library where \$450 was donated to buy books along with books directly donated to diversify the authors and subjects represented; including affirm, LGBTQIA+ and two-spirit people, white supremacy and racism, Indigneous justice, feminism, disability and accessibility and so much more.

Our biggest upcoming project is a collaboration with other local churches to sponsor a project in recognition of Matthew Shepperd, a gay man who died as a result of a hate crime in Wyoming in 1998, more information will be shared with the congregation soon.

In our second year as an affirming church what continues to amaze and inspire me is how the principle of affirm is woven into the fabric of St. Paul's. The book drive to diversify our library was the affirming committee's way of preparing to gather in person, to make our physical space represent our community. In meetings about returning to in person services where conversations ranged from access to hand sanitizer to why the one way entrance and exits had to have access to wheelchair ramps. This is Affirm. A constant conversation and consideration of every person who might enter our doors, our facebook lives, and our zoom rooms. The ability to adapt because with every new person we become a new and increasingly beautiful community.

I am proud of the community we have built around affirm and thank the affirming committee, St. Paul's staff and congregation for all the work you do in making St. Paul's the affirming community it is.

Thea Sheridan-Jonah and the Affirming Committee

**CAPITAL PROJECTS – Harold DeVenne, *Team Chair***

---

## Capital Projects Team – Sanctuary Renovation

The pandemic has had an impact on the speed of review and approval by the Town. Our rezoning application was approved by Town Council on March 8, 2021 and final approval was received April 12, 2021 after the official period for objections. This included a bylaw specifically written to approve nine parking spaces that no longer met current bylaws.

The next step was to file an application for Severance of the manse property. This required that a survey be prepared that showed new property lines for the manse property to allow for a larger buffer strip between the drive and parking lot and the manse property line. The new survey also included the parking lot with the new location of the parking spaces.

The application was filed in July and the fees paid in August. September 30 we posted the Consent Application signs on the properties. There were no objections submitted to the severance and the report is being written for approval by the Director at the Town.

We look forward to receiving notice from the Committee of Adjustment in early 2022 that the severance is approved and this will include any further steps we need to take.

Following approval, we will need to move the back fence on the manse property to match the new property line, create the appropriate buffer strip by removing a portion of the asphalt in the lower parking lot, and re-paint the new parking lot lines. The Trustees will work with a lawyer to create a deed for the new lot and then arrange for sale of the lot.

Once the lot goes up for sale, we can approach the architects and re-start the sanctuary renovation project.

**COMMUNICATION, Candace Allen, Team Chair**

---

It's that time of year again. This year's report isn't much different than last year. The church managed to open for a little while but then with this next variant, closed down again. The services were live streamed from the church and then put on YouTube for anyone who wanted to watch it later. Right up to the last minute we were planning two in-person Christmas Eve services. But had to change plans for safety reasons.

We continue to do a bimonthly newsletter which keep the St. Paul's family up to date on current events, virtual Zoom activities, upcoming programs, and community outreach events. We are still getting a good response from the newsletter with 208 emails sent and 125 to 130 people opening the letter. That is about 60% which is a very good "open" rate. We have many past church members who have moved away but continue to receive the email newsletter and stay connected to St. Paul's. It is fun finding different images to add to the articles to make them colourful and eye catching.

Deborah looks after keeping the web site current with upcoming events, Zoom links and articles of interest. Deborah and Carolyn post updates on Facebook and Instagram. Our social media presence is very important to keep everyone informed and connected.

Jeff Laforet, our "sign guy" continues to come up with catchy postings for the sign hoping spark a smile on commuters travelling along Rebecca St.

Our team is responsible to pulling together the Annual Report with submissions from other Council Teams and participating groups.

Hopefully we will be able to open our doors again soon. The Communication Team will keep everyone informed and up to date on how this will proceed.

Blessings.

**COMMUNITY AND FAITH FORMATION – Vacant, Team Chair**

---

No report this year

**FINANCE - Darren Pinette, Team Chair**

---

A full financial report will be available in March 2022 and will be presented at the annual meeting on March 20, 2022.

---

**HEALTH & WELLNESS – Harold DeVenne, Team Chair**

---

The Team has not met during the pandemic. We hope to meet again in 2022 if the pandemic allows us to do so. Even though we have not met, there has been continued effort across the various teams and individuals to address the mental health impacts of the pandemic on the various age groups within our church family.

Worship leadership has strived to engage as many as possible in both youth and adult worship. Phone calls continue to those who are potentially isolated by the pandemic to reinforce that they are not forgotten and maintain a link to the rest of the church family. Jeff and Jay focused on mental health during November in a very personal way.

The mental health of the congregation is top of mind across all aspects and activities of the congregation, which is fantastic.

Team: Harold DeVenne, Jay Smith, Rob Phillips, Shirley-Anne Cooper-Maimot, Carolyn Smith, Carilyn McNaught

---

**MISSION – Harold DeVenne, Team Chair**

---

The Mission Team has not met during the pandemic. We did start a few initiatives in 2020 which have continued to move forward during 2021. Some of these have taken on a life of their own which is what should happen. Two major initiatives resulted from the Mission Team initiative and they are detailed below.

One Mission Team project was to begin a “Spotlight on Outreach” and Allyson Mitchell-Neufeld ran with the concept. Our first “Spotlight” was the TOTs program and its beginnings which was presented as part of the January 3, 2021 service. A further video was created which focused on Brad Neufeld’s youth band which meets and practices (except during the pandemic) at the church and also performs at worship services. This video was presented later in the year during the online services.

**Neighbour Care Network**

This is an initiative of Kerr Street Ministries. The concept is to centralize support for families and individuals in difficulty and distress with the support of local church compassion ministries. The Mission Team felt that this was something the congregation could support, and we made a proposal to Council to become part of the network. The Council agreed and approved becoming a supporting members of the network. We took the first steps in February 2020 but the pandemic got in the way. We eventually signed the agreement near the end of 2021. The Rice collection program was St. Paul’s being part of this network. Our benevolent fund will support families across Oakville when needed by the Network.

Late in 2021 a number of our congregation received training on supporting individuals and families who are being helped by the Neighbour Care Network.

**Oakville Ready**

The Mission Team supported this initiative as a way to get involved with the Community and it continues to be active during the Pandemic. There were several meetings in person and over Zoom during 2021. Being part of Oakville Ready keeps us in touch with the Region of Halton as well as the

Halton Environmental network, providing potential opportunities to take care of people and the environment.

In August we were asked if we could be an emergency evacuation site for several day care centres in our area. Council approved this action and in December we finalized an agreement to be the site for two Regional Child Care Centres. In January 2022, we expect Knox Presbyterian to finalize their approval to pick up one of the centres as an evacuation site, leaving us with only one site. This is another way St. Paul's can support the community in time of need.

In 2022 we expect that the impacts of the pandemic may reduce and we can put a little more structure around the use of St. Paul's as an emergency use facility and do a test run for the Child Care Evacuation agreement.

We could use a few more members from the younger, newer portion of the St. Paul's family on the team. Please contact Harold DeVenne (905-827-0787) or Carolyn Smith if you would like to "test us out" or simply join the team.

Harold on behalf of the team – Jeff Kargus, Allyson Mitchell-Neufeld, Carolyn Smith, Jenn Pham-MacMillan

### **NURTURING CARE – Carilyn McNaught, Team Chair**

---

We are a team of five (Carolyn Smith, Judy DeVenne, Jackie O'Byrne, BJ (Betty Jane) Young and Carilyn McNaught. In 2021 we only met once in person and on zoom. However, we email and telephone each other trying to meet the needs of our congregation.

Thanks to those who have provided delicious casseroles, chili, soup, muffins and cookies. The Bazaar Country Store and Bake Table asked people to donate one of their specialties to Nurturing Care which was so appreciated. Eighteen families who experienced difficulties, illness or grief were recipients of these meals. Five Prayers Bears were given as a symbol of St. Paul's love and prayers. Three prayer shawls were given homes while two were donated to the Outreach Senior Stockings. A total of 337 greeting cards, Sunday School cards and colouring were sent.

St. Paul's are so thankful to our 14 phone tree callers who keep in touch with you so often bringing their brightness into our life's. It is tough now when we have gone back to "lock down" so this is such an important ministry. Our callers are Marjorie Boyce, Joan Ford, Terry Farris, Cynthia Steneveld, Margaret White, Pat Mason, Irene Murray, Carol Anne Hunt, Jackie O'Byrne, Lorne Mousley, Frank O'Byrne, BJ Young, Judy DeVenne and Carilyn McNaught.

In the fall some personal visits were made to Retirement and Long Term Care facilities plus in the homes. In December, Christmas cards and Tim Horton Gift Cards were sent to 10 St. Paul's University or College Students. Snow Globes, Christmas Trees and Manger Scene ornaments were given to some of the St. Paul's Seniors.

On December 20th our "Longest Night" service was held on line with candle lighting to honour those dark times. Catherine Arcand-Pinette provided us with the music.

Remember, sunrises, sunsets, friendships, families, prayers, hopes, dreams are NOT LOCKED DOWN! Reach out to others and please let our ministers, Nurturing Care or phone callers know how WE can help. YOU are NOT alone, God is with you and St. Paul's Cares!

Carilyn McNaught--Chair



### **OUTREACH – Shirley-Anne Cooper-Maimot, *Team Chair***

---

2021 was another year of unexpected restrictions due to the pandemic. However, the Outreach Committee was able to meet a few times via Zoom. Throughout the year we were able to organize some projects to provide support within the community.

The Anniversary offering went to Kerr Street Mission. Holy Saturday Deborah and Catherine organized a food drive. Members were able to drop off food donations at the church. All donations were given to Food Share.

During the month of October St. Paul's participated in the Race for Rice. This was an Oakville Ready Hub project and members were able to drop off bags of rice for distribution. All donations went to Kerr Street Mission. At the Thanksgiving service St. Paul's collected food donations for Food Share.

A new project Outreach participated in was "Children of Christmas Past" stockings for seniors. With the wonderful generosity of St. Paul's members we were able to put together over 60 stockings. Thank you all for your donations.

Christmas Eve offering went to the Benevolent fund and Food Share.

We look forward to the 2022 year!

### **PROPERTY – Team Chair Position Vacant      Report submitted by Tom Allen**

---

For 2021, we had a property to maintain, though with minimal use, and we had a number of individuals pitch in to do what needed to be done. To start with, I would like to tip my hat to all the **volunteer honorary property members**: Harold DeVenne, Bert Fonseca, Frank O'Byrne, Ernie Neufeld, Rob Phillips, and Michele Swanson-Mousley (rental co-ordination).

Then there are the **various teams and support individuals**: (also honorary members!)

Nightly security check/lockup: this is to ensure that all lights are off in the building and all doors and windows are secure each evening. We currently have 5 people covering the seven nights. We can always use a few more. The current crew is composed of Frank O'Byrne, Bert Fonseca, Tom Allen, Harold DeVenne and Ernie Neufeld.

Gardens: Frank and Jackie with support from Emily Dilauro, Oliver, Griffin and Chad Baker (family assistants), and offers to help from Bryan MacMillan and Janis Fournier. Activities included weeding, watering, clipping, trimming, raking leaves and cutting curb edges. An additional need filled by Frank included the sprinkler system start/drain and some maintenance/repair.

Weekly Lawn Cutting: Headed by Rob Phillips, included Doug Francis, Bryan MacMillan, Tom Allen, Marc Therrien, Jeff Kargus, Salam Awlo, Salam Sakaria, Sue Macdonald, Jack Pinette and Jeff Laforet.

Other things that needed to be done during 2021 included:

- Clean flat roves of leaves – Tom Allen, Bryan MacMillan, Bert Fonseca, Harold DeVenne
- Set up annual snow removal contract and sprinkler opening and closing – Harold DeVenne and Frank O'Byrne
- Annual Fire equipment servicing – Jeanne Kho
- Replace flood lights in Sanctuary with LED lights – Harold DeVenne, Tom Allen, and Rob Phillips
- Replace bulbs and replace lights in sanctuary isles – Harold DeVenne
- Replace broken and missing light fixture covers in lower halls- Harold DeVenne
- Coordinate fallen tree removal after wind storm in November – Tom Allen
- Trim bushes and smaller trees around property – Harold DeVenne
- Lawnmower rebuild/repair (replacement motor and transmission): Don and Ed Cox ...A special thank-you to Don and Ed for donating time, mechanical expertise, and an additional spare lawnmower to keep our lawn cutting team gainfully employed.
- Lawnmower maintenance- sharpening, oil change, air filters and cleaning – Rob Phillips and Tom Allen
- Monitor parking area lighting and deal with Oakville Hydro to resolve – Tom Allen
- Arrange furnace heating schedule during the winter months to match rental use of the gym – Tom Allen
- Continued to look for improvement in internet service to allow expanded live streaming of Sunday service including Sunday School content- Bert Fonseca
- Keeping an eye on drainage away from the foundation of the church – Tom Allen and lockup team.

Remaining to undertake:

- Replace bulbs in the sanctuary hanging fixtures
- Repair the No Parking signs at the back of the gym, damaged with the fallen trees this year.
- Some of the gym light fixtures need attention ...bulbs or ballasts

As there is always something which needs attention in a community facility of this age, we could always use additional expertise, time and talents to continue our efforts to maintain the operations.

Respectfully submitted:

Tom Allen

**REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP – Pat Mason, Co-Chair**

---

During 2021, the Refugee team was composed of Bev Phillips and Pat Mason as co-chairs, and also included Selina Bajorek. Deborah Laforet is also involved as Lead Minister and UCC liaison. Other previous committee members have either moved or decided to take a break.

Our sponsorship included eight members of one family. As you know, four of these individuals arrived in 2019. As such our financial commitment to these four has been fully discharged. Juleet's daughter, son, and son in law have all found employment, and are integrating into Canadian society. Bev Phillips has continued as our main liaison with these family members, and is called upon to assist them when issues arrive. Juleet is of course very concerned regarding the other four members who are still in Lebanon, as are we. It has turned out that there is a glitch in the application for these individuals. In 2003 - 2005, Anas, the father, was detained by the American forces who had invaded Iraq as part of Desert Storm to capture Saddam Hussein. Because of this detention, and subsequent factors, the family's immigration to Canada is in jeopardy.

In August 2021, Bev Phillips and Pat Mason met with family members and an immigration lawyer to discuss options. Subsequently, we met with the Council Executive to request permission to spend \$5,000.00 from the Refugee Fund to retain the services of this lawyer. It seemed that either we take this step to help the family eventually emigrate to Canada, or they are consigned to remain in Lebanon as non citizens, and without legal status. We are hopeful that the 'glitch' can be cleared up so that Anas, Suzan, Tonee and Dani will be able to come and begin their lives in Canada. If this happens, and the four family members arrive, we will definitely need to increase the membership of the Refugee Team. If you are interested, please contact Bev or Pat.

In other news, we heard recently that the family of Biak and Van Dawt have recently welcomed another daughter to their family. They have called her Deborah.

Pat Mason

**STEWARDSHIP TEAM – Michele Swanson-Mousley, Team Chair**

---

There is much more for us to manage in our faith community beyond the financial realm.

Stewardship comes down to doing the right things with what we've been given. Whether its money, time, relationships, abilities or resources - stewardship is our ongoing acceptance that it is our responsibility to use our individual gifts for the best possible outcomes.

Over the many months since we first heard of Covid-19 our church life at St. Paul's has been altered in ways we could never have imagined. Worship, funerals, weddings and baptisms have all been done 'differently'. Meetings, Sunday school, Christmas pageants, bazaars and variety shows have taken place 'virtually'. All of this took energy, time and great leadership. The St. Paul's congregation rose to the challenge magnificently.

Our time, treasure and talent has stood us in good stead as we navigated a world in which it was difficult to see beyond the immediate crises.

As we enter the third year of the pandemic it's difficult to predict how soon we will once again be meeting together in person, and in any case, it will likely be a very gradual return to face-to-face meetings and events. St. Paul's finances have been negatively impacted and our assets depleted and we are facing yet another budget where the bottom line is a deficit.

Thank you for continuing to support the mission of St. Paul's with your gifts of time, talent and **treasure**. Let us resolve once more to use these gifts for the best possible outcome in 2022.

### **UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW) – Pat Mason, Team Representative**

---

#### UCW Report

During 2021, the UCW again operated according to the public health measures imposed on the people of Ontario. In the early months of the year, our members hunkered down like everyone else, waiting for possible vaccinations to mitigate the impact of a Covid 19 diagnosis. As things opened up in the summer/fall, the High Five unit began meeting again at the church. The Sarah unit held several meetings in members homes, and the Miriam unit held one meeting at the home of Faith Witt. In addition, Carolyn Smith and UCW members organized two outdoor gatherings at the church during the summer. The Live unit no longer operates as a UCW unit, although it's members are actively involved in church events. In fact, several of these members have been instrumental in organizing the virtual Holiday Jingle bazaar over the last two years. The monies from these bazaars has gone to the St. Paul's General Fund, to support the church.

During Covid, the Women's Inter-Church Council has continued. To support the operation of its activities, our UCW units have regularly gathered the 'Least Coin' of our country. In this way, we are in solidarity with the women of all countries, as each brings the least coin of their country to their meetings. We will hold a service for the Ingathering of the Least Coin, hopefully in the spring of 2022, when we can gather again. Terry Farris coordinates these services for us, and when we are meeting, distributes the monthly prayer and reflection offered by a member of the Inter-Church Council.

The UCW has not organized any fundraisers over the past two years. In the spring, when gatherings are allowed again, we will make some decisions regarding how we plan to use our remaining monies to support various charities in Oakville and surrounding area. We have however continued to make donations to the General Fund of the church in memory of long time UCW members who have passed. In 2021, we were saddened by the loss of Peggy Cooper, Anne Wilding, Joyce Clawson and Venetia Binns. We have also continued with giving Christmas gifts to staff to thank them for their hard work.

During the past two years, Carilyn McNaught has continued as UCW liason to Council, Irene Murray has kept us informed about changes to our membership, Helga de Lint has sent out information to keep our members informed, and Pat Mason has been our treasurer. In addition, Cynthia Steneveld, Carilyn McNaught, and Sharon Wiese have been our unit coordinators. We thank them for their leadership and support.

Pat Mason

**WORSHIP – Kristina Kriston, Team Chair*****Report submitted by Carol Anne Hunt***

---

The year's worship services continued to be online until Oct. 3 and then the sanctuary was opened for in-person services for a short period from Oct. 10 to Dec. 12. We thank the many people who worked to set up the technology during the year so that services could be live streamed from the sanctuary. Now that the technology is in place we can meet the needs of more people for worship in the future. As Covid restrictions decrease we anticipate returning to in-person worship but will also maintain the live streaming if we have enough technical support volunteers.

The services throughout the year included participation from many people of St. Paul's family. The ministerial, music, and Sunday School staff members worked diligently to create inspirational services of high quality. Besides the live-stream link, a telephone recording is available and the services are archived for future reference.

All special services to celebrate the seasons of the church year were conducted and communion was included each month. We welcomed guest speakers for Pride Sunday, Indigenous Sunday, Mental Health Awareness, and the Environment.

Along with members of the Worship Team-- Fay Copland, Rachel Couban, Jennifer Gunter, Carol Anne Hunt, Kristina Kriston, Deborah Laforet, Chris Lee and Thea Sheridan-Jonah --many others from the congregation have assisted in the duties. We thank those who schedule greeters, ushers, and readers; the tech support people; and others who keep banners, decorations, and flowers in season.

May God bless our worship as we continue to meet the challenges of the Covid pandemic.

**JOYFUL NOISE – Bev Phillips, Choir Director**

---

Despite the ongoing pandemic challenges in 2021, a Joyful Noise continues to be heard at St. Paul's! Through the magic of video and the genius of our own Catherine Arcand-Pinette, and with the help of our children's programmer Tracy Mitchell, we have been able to rehearse through ZOOM and present our songs on video. We have had between 5 and 8 young voices, and this year we were thrilled to welcome some new members as well! Some of the highlights included singing for our Anniversary Service in April, our children's pageant service at Christmas as well as our first ever virtual St. Paul's Variety show! We look forward to the coming year and can't wait to be back singing in person

**TOTS & US**

---

We did not have Tots & Us in 2021. Hopefully it will be able to resume in the fall

**PUBS & PEWS – Jeff Laforet, *Team Representative***

---

Well, it was the best of times, it was the worst of times. What a year 2021 was for our ragtag group of “gentlemen”. For those who don't know, Pubs and Pews is a loosely formed group of men, and those who identify as such, to get together monthly and share food, drink, and merriment. It is not a formal group in that there are no minutes, no chair, no rules, and no true obligations other than to have community.

That is not to say that we don't raise funds for the church, participate in events setting up and tearing down, and donate our time. This year alone we have participated in submitting items for the live auction at the Holiday Jingle Bazaar, we helped contribute and distribute snacks for the Variety Show, and we donated funds to the church directly or indirectly by supporting church members. We also have fun during church services as we have done “funny” and “entertaining” videos and readings.

We mostly met virtually this year, but on four occasions got to see each other in person at a restaurant. To be honest, food and drink taste so much better when with someone. Right now we are back to virtual meetings, but we look forward to bigger and better this year, including possibly hosting a BBQ event at some point.

If you know anyone who would like to join us, let me know. We welcome everyone, even Kent!

Cheers, Jeff Laforet, Pubs and Pews Partaker

**HOLIDAY JINGLE BAZAAR – Shirley-Anne Cooper-Maimot, *Event Leadership Team***

---

2021 online Holiday Jingle was another successful year. Once again we were able to hold the Country Store/Baking, Knitting and Silent Auction online.

Catherine, Candy and Taryn did a fantastic job organizing the online order forms, volunteers to bake, and package up each order so it's ready for pick up. It's a lot of work ladies and you ROCKED it! Thank you! We had asked the volunteers who donated to baked goodies and soups to make a little extra. These were donated to Nuturing Care for distribution to church friends.

Carilyn and Grace did an awesome job sorting the knitting, organizing the online order forms and packaging the orders. Thank you! Fantastic job!

There were several nice items donated to the auction. Shirley-Anne organized the online google sheets. Over the course of a week people were able to bid on the items. At the end of the week winners were notified and items were picked up on pick up day.

Thank you St. Paul's for all of your support.

We look forward to seeing you all in person at the 2022 Holiday Jingle.

**GUIDING AT ST. PAUL'S – Deanna Jones, *Community Guider***

We are happy to report that the guiding units from St Paul's are still functioning!!

The numbers are down as we struggle presenting programs during Covid.

The sparks and Brownies each have 12 girls

The guides have 7 girls

The Pathfinders have 10 girls

Since we closed down in March 2020 we have not been able to meet indoors at St. Paul's.

Programs are presented to the girls online/virtual. The leaders send craft supplies, etc., for programs out to the girls to help with the online program. They found many places that had put together programs- the Toronto Zoo, McMaster science programs for example. Occasionally when things opened up a bit we were able to meet outdoors. When we started up the 2021/2022 guiding year in September the units were able to meet outdoors. Some locations for programs were open and allowed indoor activities- example, bowling, indoor rock climbing, the pottery store. Units did a program in the outdoors hiking through the historical part of Oakville, games and crafts in the parks, learning first aid and home safety. The leaders are amazing !! They came up with so many great activities for the girls. One unit found the gazebo at the end of Navy St. and had their meeting and even the enrollment ceremony protected from the rain. As the fall progressed it got dark so early and it was getting very cold! They still carried on! The girls decorated the orange Home Depot buckets to carry program /craft materials from meeting to meeting. They also used them as a sit upon!

The girls and leaders miss St. Paul's so much- the church has always been a warm, safe welcoming meeting place for many, many years. We were working on the contract and the insurance papers for returning in January. Moving back to stage 2 reopening has now put this on hold. - back to online / virtual and limited outdoors due to weather

We need guiders for the Pathfinders. The guiders who are with the unit are helping out but have been in guiding a long time. We need help with the outdoor activities and when we can get back to camping! The amazing leaders of the guide unit have teamed the guide unit up with the pathfinders to help present the program and keep a safe girl to adult ratio.

Anyone who is interested in being a leader please contact me. We always need more help. We hope that this stage of Covid will pass. Help will be needed in September to start up another guiding year!

Thank you to St. Paul's for your support and being there for the Girls, Leaders and Guiding. Also a personal thank you from me!

Al the best wishes for 2022!

Deanna Jones  
Community Guider  
905-827-4752

## 7<sup>th</sup> TRAFALGAR SCOUT GROUP – Ian Reilly, Program Leader

On behalf of 7th Trafalgar Scout Group, we would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to the Membership and Staff of St. Paul's United Church for their ongoing support of our Group and the Scouting Program. Also, thank you for the broader support we receive from the congregation members.

Section	Weekly Meetings			Membership	
	Night	Time	Duration	Youth	Volunteers
Beaver Colony (5-7yrs)	Tuesday	6:00pm-6:45pm	Sept to May	6	4
Cub Pack (8-10 yrs)	Wednesday	6:45pm-8:00pm	Sept to May	24	4
Scout Troop (11-14yrs)	Tuesday	7:00pm-9:00pm	Sept to August	15	7
Venturer Company (15-17yrs)	Wednesday	7:00pm-9:00pm	Sept to August	12	3
Group Committee	Varies	Varies	Sept to August	n/a	4

We are always looking for more people to join us – Youth and Volunteers. If you would like more information, please contact us at [7thtrafalgarscouting@gmail.com](mailto:7thtrafalgarscouting@gmail.com)

### 1. 7th Trafalgar Group Committee

The 7th Group Committee is made up of Parents and Volunteers who support the Section Scouters and organize events and fundraising activities to help support the Group's Youth and Program activities. They include:

- Organizing the Group's fundraising campaign, which includes Scout Popcorn (in the Fall), Scout Coffee (year-round) and Scout Seeds (in the spring).
- Proceeds from the fundraising activities go directly to equipment and supplies used by the Youth as part of their regular program meetings and camps.
- Responsible for organizing Group events such as our All-Sections Camp, annual Christmas Bowling Party, Founder Day celebration and year end barbeque. Events have been postponed due to the Pandemic.
- As things begin to normalize, we expect youth numbers in each section to increase, especially in younger sections as parents become more comfortable with extracurricular activities.

### 2020-21 Scouting Year Page 2

- Our fundraising efforts have taken a major hit due to the Pandemic. As we plan for the remainder of the year and the start of next year, we plan to run a Bottle Drive Saturday April 23rd, 2022. (Weekend after Easter). All refundable beer cans, bottles and LCBO bottles are welcome. These can be dropped off in the parking lot at St. Paul's United Church between 8:30 am and 12:00 pm on April 23 or arrangements can be made to pick up curbside. Please email [reilly.ian@hotmail.com](mailto:reilly.ian@hotmail.com) if you would like curbside pickup. Any donation of bottles would be appreciated and we thank you in advance for your donation.

### 2. 7th Trafalgar Scout Group Beaver Scout Colony

#### Section Overview

Fun and friendship are the cornerstone of the Beaver Scouts program.

Beavers opens the door for your child to discover the world. It is filled with a little bit of everything – outdoor activities, games, music and sports. Along the way, Beaver Scouts meet new friends, learn cooperation and teamwork and develop self-confidence.

#### 2020-2021 Program Year

The Beaver Colony is running with a much smaller group as some parents wanted to keep children home



during the various Pandemic lockdowns. We adapted our program to run with virtual meetings when we were not able to meet in-person. The Beavers figured out how to build a rolling Mars Rover and explore space, learned about different birds and animals and how they adapt to winter and lots of jokes and riddles. When we were allowed to meet in-person outdoors, we went on some hikes, figured out how to clean water and fly paper helicopters.

We had one third year Beaver (White Tail) earn her North Star Award (top section award for Beavers). Her capstone project was to organize the Beavers to make spring flower posters to share with residents at a local long term care center.

Our upcoming activities include working on our Beaver Buggies for race day, some winter outdoor activities and working on our Technology Beaver badge.

2020-21 Scouting Year Page 3

### 3. 7th Trafalgar Scout Group Cub Scout Pack

#### Section Overview

With the Cub Scouts motto of "Do Your Best" front and center, Cubs are encouraged to try new and more challenging activities. Learning important first aid skills, paddling a canoe for the first time, or leading a game at camp will open the door for Cubs to try other adventures they never thought possible. Along the way, Cubs learn how to take care of themselves and work as a team – and most importantly have a lot of fun!

#### 2021 Program Year

The 2021 program year continued to run under the constraints of the Pandemic. In the winter and spring of 2021, we provided programming via in-person outdoor and virtual meetings. Our Cub Pack was divided into three Lairs of 6-7 Cubs each. Scouts Canada limited number the of 16 Cubs for inperson meetings. Our Cubs rotated through in-person and virtual meetings. We had 2 dedicated "Virtual Leaders" throughout the Winter and Spring of 2021 along with 4 "In-person" Scouters. The Cub Pack took the summer off as usual.

In the winter/spring of 2021 we had 20 Cubs registered however 5 Cubs moved up to Scouts in September. Our total number of Cubs registered in the fall of 2021 was 14. The return to school in September and the easing of regulations enabled us to return as a full group in both indoor and outdoor venues.

Cubs met outside throughout the fall, right up until late November. We were able to move indoors once Morden Public School became available. The Pandemic has given us the opportunity to go back to Scouting roots and get everyone outside as much as possible.

Feedback from parents and youth tell us that being outside or being able to gather at an indoor facility is key for most of them. The online programming, although quality and necessary during lockdowns felt too much like the rest of their day when they are in front of screens for school. We found that attendance dropped off when only virtual meetings were available. In the spring of 2021, we completed the Great 8 Challenge. This was a virtually run program with weekly activities that Cubs completed at home or outdoors with their families. This program was a great success and most Cubs enjoyed sharing their creations or experiences virtually each week.

This fall we spent some of our meetings playing wide area games, we were hiking, we completed an outdoor Investiture Ceremony, we dressed up for Halloween and brought canned goods to the "Oakville Halloween House." We also did some indoor activities at Laser Tag, Crack Pots Studio for pottery painting, Winter Outdoor Adventure Skills (OAS) preparation and indoor games. This fall we had a Scout join as a volunteer as he works toward his Chief Scout Award in Scouts. We are planning a day Camp and activities to work on our Winter Outdoor OAS.

2020-21 Scouting Year Page 4

### 4. 7th Trafalgar Scout Group Scout Troop

#### Section Overview

Scouts is about having fun while gaining valuable leadership skills and self-confidence.

Scouts enjoy outdoor adventures like mountain biking, rock climbing and lots of camping while working together with other young people to accomplish thrilling challenges and contribute to their communities.

#### 2020-2021 Program Year

This year the Scout Troop has grown to 20 Scouts and 7 Scouters. Scout regular meetings include indoor and outdoor games; camp and wilderness skills along Scout craft activities include rope lashing, stove and lantern, fire safety, axe and saw safety, knife safety, and outdoor survival skills. Scouting requires a strong outdoor focus. With the Pandemic most of our meetings have been held outdoors. This year we have also had in depth discussions around the topics of camp planning, showing respect for selves and knife safety. We have been focused on Outdoor Adventure Skills including Scoutcraft, Sailing, Camping, Trail, winter, Paddling, Aquatic, Vertical, and Emergency Skills. We had several outdoor hikes, went sledding and enjoyed the serene setting of our neighborhood parks.

Scouts have been busy working on core aspects of the program including Promise, Law, Motto, Troop Patrol Structure, and SPICES. (Social, Physical, Intellectual, Character, Emotional and Spiritual)

The Pandemic has put a damper on any formal events this year but we have participated in several on line challenges including the Scouts Canada Great 8 Challenge with Les Stroud. Each week the youth were challenged with a new survival scenario, from shelter building and map reading to food challenges where each youth had to select, cook with and eat a unique ingredient.

Our program goal is to ensure camping trip every 2 months. Unfortunately, we were unable to camp this year due to the Pandemic restrictions but we are eager to get back camping and already have several great trips planned.

#### 2020-21 Scouting Year Page 5

#### 5. 7th Trafalgar Scout Group Venturer Scout Company

##### Section Overview

The Venturer Scout program offers exciting, real-life, hands-on experiences for youth. Venturers learn to nurture an active, healthy lifestyle; acquire the knowledge and skills for career development; and participate in thrilling outdoor adventures. Weekend events, extended hikes, Leave No Trace camping, spiritual reflection, community service and round out the Venturer experience.

##### 2021 Program Year

It continues to be an adventure every week navigating the Pandemic. Our Venture Company had 8 active participants. 4 moved up to Rover Scouts. (Oldest Youth Section in Scouting). We did manage to get a final camp in before the lock down in December. A 2 night, 3-day adventure at the Reilly Cottage in beautiful Emsdale Ontario. Activities included hiking, our annual beef jerky contest, fire building, cooking new menu items like Mongolian beef and a Polish Poker Tournament.

The Year has been a mixture of both online (Zoom) and in person Outdoor and Indoor Meetings.

Activities highlighted included swimming, Scout Craft and fire building, billiards, bike hiking, camp and hike planning and Venturer Investiture.

Couple of interesting hikes of note: Limestone Conservation Area to Speyside and the Bennett Heritage Trail.

Our Venturers are planning to run next Group Fundraiser Bottle Drive April 23, 2022 and have a camp planned April 1- 3 in Algonquin Park.

We currently have 1 Venturer working on completing their Chief Scout Award. (Highest achievement award earned by Scouts and 1st year Venturers – 4 years to achieve)

Several Venturers and Rovers have started Red Cross Standard First Aid training.



Darren Pinette	Finance
Michele Mousley	Stewardship
Kent Palmer	Trustees
Thea Sheridan Jonah	Affirm

**Vacant Chair Positions**

Vice Chair  
 Nominating Committee  
 Community and Faith Formation  
 Ministry and Personnel  
 Property  
 Outreach

6. Approval of Council and Team Membership

Motion to approve Council membership 2021

**MOTION:** Gloria Francis SECONDED Ron Shermet **Carried**

Motion to authorize Council to continue its work to fill vacancies

**MOTION:** Doug Francis SECONDED Shirley-Anne Maimot **Carried**

7. Ministry and Personnel Statement:

The M&P committee is informing the congregation that Council has approved a 2.2% increase in 2021 salaries to our lay staff, Catherine Arcand-Pinette, Jeanne Kho, and Tracy Mitchell. This is consistent with the 2.2% mandated increase to ministerial staff.

**MOTION:** Pat Mason SECONDED: Kent Palmer **Carried**

8. 2020 Financial Statement Presentation

Darren Pinette

Review Results Highlights from 2020. Review COVID impact on 2020 Financial Performance

a) Motion to approve the 2020 Financial Statements as presented.

**MOTION:** Darren Pinette SECONDED Thea Sheridan-Jonah **Carried**

b) Motion to continue contributing 10% of envelope offerings plus 10% of loose offerings plus 100% of the Lenten Offering to the M&S Fund.

**MOTION:** Darren Pinette SECONDED Jeff Laforet **Carried**

c) 2021 Budget Presentation Darren Pinette

The 2021 budget reflects an operating deficit of \$39,000 with the assumption that the church reopens in June with a gradual ramp up of offering and rentals.

Motion to approve 2021 budget

**MOTION:** Darren Pinette SECONDED Judy DeVenne **Carried**

d) Update on audit report

Darren Pinette

Full audit is now being done and hoping to have a report in mid to late April.

9. Motion to allocate Anniversary offering for 2021 to Kerr Street Ministries

**MOTION:** Catherine Arcand-Pinette SECONDED Grace Jeong

10. New Business:

Jeff Laforet offered a BIG thank you to Judy DeMone for all the excellent work she did for St. Paul's Council in such a different, difficult year.

The Finance Team was also thanked for their hard work keeping our finances organized and well explained.

11. Close Meeting Time: 12:35 pm

12. Benediction  
Deborah Laforet