



# 2022 Annual Report

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## CONTENTS

### UP FRONT

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

### A MESSAGE FROM...

Deborah Laforet, <i>Lead Minister</i> .....	5
Catherine Arcand-Pinette, <i>Director of Music</i> .....	6
The Joyful Noise, <i>Bev Phillips</i> .....	6
Tracy Mitchell, <i>Children’s Programming Developer</i> .....	7
Kent Palmer, <i>Chair of Board</i> .....	7
Kent Palmer, <i>Chair, St. Paul’s Board of Trustees</i> .....	8

### TEAM REPORTS

Leadership Team.....	9
Spiritual Leadership Team .....	10
Church Management .....	11
Finance .....	15
Oakville Ready.....	16
Mission .....	16
Nurturing Care .....	18
Outreach .....	19
Refugee Sponsorship.....	20

### OTHER PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Garage Sale.....	21
Holiday Jingle Bazaar.....	21
Pubs & Pews .....	22

### APPENDIX

Meeting Minutes: 2022 Annual Meeting ( <i>Sunday March 20, 2022</i> ).....	23
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**IN MEMORIAM**

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

***Thanks be to God.***

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These are the names of those individuals who passed away in 2022 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.

*François Jean Bollinger  
William Clive Brooks (Clive)  
Margaret Hayward  
Chesley John Hornibrook (Ches)  
Norma Pryde Kirkpatrick  
Victoria Irene Pelkey  
Walter Russell Rose  
Harold Ryerse  
Susan Elizabeth Sproule  
Andries N. Wolder (Andre)  
Holly May Wright*

**BOARD AND TEAM MEMBERSHIP**

**Board Members**

Chair of the Board	Kent Palmer
Leadership Team	Jeff Kargus
Spiritual Leadership Team	Allyson Neufeld
Church Management Team	Harold DeVenne
Secretary	Candace Allen
Finance Chair	Judy DeMone
Ministers	Deborah Laforet Carolyn Smith

**Board of Trustees**

Kent Palmer  
Brad Neufeld  
Frank O’Byrne  
Jennifer Pham-MacMillan  
Bev Phillips

**Finance Team**

Judy DeMone  
Grace Jeong (Treasurer)  
Ron Shermet

**Gardens**

Harold DeVenne  
Judy DeVenne  
Jackie O’Byrne  
Janis Fournier  
Carol Anne Hunt

**Night Security**

Erny Neufeld  
Bert Fonseca  
Frank O’Byrne  
Tom Allen  
Harold DeVenne

**Ministry & Personnel**

Pat Freedman  
Candace Allen  
Darlene Cox  
Elizabeth Phillips

**Nurturing Care**

Carilyn McNaught  
Judy DeVenne  
Jackie O’Byrne  
BJ Young

**Grass Cutting Care**

Rob Phillips  
Tom Allen  
Bryan MacMillan  
Jeff Kargus  
Kent Palmer  
Darren and Jack Pinette  
Jeff Laforet  
Doug Francis  
Sue MacDonald  
Don Cox (thanks for lawn  
mower tune up)

**Communication (eNews)**

Candace Allen

**Property Maintenance Tasks**

Tom Allen  
Rob Phillips  
Harold DeVenne  
Bert Fonseca  
Jay Smith

**Church Opening**

Harold DeVenne  
Bryan MacMillan  
Tom Allen  
Sue MacTonald  
Erny Neufeld

**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**

The year 2022 was one of connections, which feels bizarre, because it started with a COVID lockdown. In December of 2021, we had to shift again to exclusively online worships, and the holidays were spent at home. Carolyn and I continued to reach out to people and make worship as engaging as we could. Volunteers continued to make phone calls, and we even hosted a tailgate party in the parking lot.

In April, we were able to open our building and gather for worship in person. With distancing and masking, we were able to gather, and even sing, as long as we did it quietly. Slowly, the community began to gather again. A few still felt safer at home, but many were venturing out, removing masks (so nice to see faces again!), gathering together, and even sing together. Groups were meeting at the church again, including choir, book studies, and Sunday School.

Since that time, many more connections have been made with people outside of our building. We've gotten to know Dave and Kendra from Trinity Centres Foundation (TCF), who are helping us to vision a new way forward. They have visited with St. Paul's, in person and on Zoom, and from this work, the Board hosted table group conversations in the fall, where we had some deeply meaningful conversations about our mission and our building.

Also, In October, we co-hosted with five other churches, a musical event at Port Nelson called "Considering Matthew Shepard," as an intentional part of our Affirming work. Proceeds from the evening went to Pflag.

During the pandemic, representatives from a few United churches in Oakville began planning events together. Out of that, five United Churches have begun to gather and share. Six of them have created an outreach team to determine how we all might support a justice project. The churches gathered one evening at St. Paul's to meet Dave from TCF. They have begun to share events and even host some together, and they even decided to worship together on Christmas Day at Trinity United and New Year's Day at St. John's United.

In December, out of my work with the Interfaith Council of Halton, Shaarei-Beth El Congregation invited us to their Channukah Candle Lighting Celebration, which many from the board attended. I also had the pleasure of meeting Jody from Grandmother's Voice, Genille from Halton Black Voices, and Clara and Rogerio from Home of Dulce, communities that might be interested in partnering with us.

We find God, the sacred and holy, in our connections. Sometimes it's a personal connection through prayer, song, and contemplations; other times, it's with nature, but a strong point of connection is through our relationships with each other. During a time of social isolation and disconnections, our community found ways to renew connections and make new ones.

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. (1 Cor 12:12)* I know this verse is used a lot, but it so aptly express who we are as community. Our St. Paul's community is only one part of the body of Christ. As the passage continues to say, if one part of the body is unwell, it affects the whole body. If all parts are well, the whole body is well.

May we continue to connect with each other and with those around us. May we know and feel the sacred in those connections. May those connections bring us closer to the Holy and the Kingdom of God. Amen.

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

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Music at St. Paul's continues to be a vibrant part of our community. Once restrictions began to be lifted, our Adult Choir started to meet in person, instead of via Zoom and we started to share our music in person again instead of relying on virtual choir anthems. The congregation and choir had expressed interest in continuing virtual anthems in the future because of the use of images to accentuate the music, so it was decided that we would continue to do recorded anthems every 4-6 weeks.

It was wonderful to begin singing in person again and having the congregation take part in musical worship without the need to sing quietly behind masks.

We also embarked on a "Blessings and Benedictions Project" whereby we began recording different blessings to be used for choral benedictions at the end of the service.

Our Adult Choir meets on Thursday evenings and currently has 12 regular members, although our virtual choir sometimes has up to 20 singers taking part from afar; some as far as PEI and Japan. We also began to rehearse our Worship Band again and have been excited to be able to include them in worship a few times since restrictions were lifted. The Adult Choir, Joyful Noise and Worship Band shared an afternoon of carols and anthems in December, to much anticipation and appreciation. It was a lovely afternoon to help get everyone into the Christmas spirit. We are also preparing for a variety show in May to share more secular choices.

I am thankful to be able to continue to serve as Director of Music at St. Paul's and share the talents of the congregation. Our rehearsals are full of joy, hard work and lots of laughs! It is a wonderful community and I am blessed to lead such great musicians.

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**JOYFUL NOISE – Bev Phillips**

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The Joyful Noise is still going strong at St. Paul's! Last spring, with the help of our music director Catherine Arcand-Pinette and our children's programmer Tracy Mitchell, we continued to meet on ZOOM and create music videos for our services. In September we were delighted to be able to meet again and rehearse in person. We are thrilled to have fourteen enthusiastic singers ranging in age from four to twelve singing in the choir. We sang for a Sunday morning service in the fall as well as for our Christmas concert and our Christmas Eve service. We are looking forward to having many more opportunities to sing this coming spring and welcome any other children who would like to join us.

**TRACY MITCHELL – Children's Programming Developer, St. Paul's United Church****Children's Programming (JK-grade 6)**

2022 has us finally feeling like we are getting back into the groove of in person Sunday School. The energy can be felt in the hallways of the church once more. We meet every Sunday morning for stories, games, crafts, and some *very* interesting discussions. There is typically an average of 10-14 children in attendance.

Over the summer our Vacation Bible School was finally back in person. Attendance was great with more than 40 children attending. The "explorers" who attended, enjoyed investigating the theme of Discovery on Adventure Island.

In the fall we enjoyed a noisy afternoon at Coronation Park carving pumpkins and playing games.

Over the Christmas season, the children produced another epic Christmas pageant. This time it was a hybrid of in person acting and prerecorded segments using green screen technology. We had more than twenty children take part!

As we look to 2023, we intend to keep bringing the energy!

Be well!

Tracy Mitchell

Children's Program Developer

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

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Greetings to all you wonderful people.

This is a time to reflect on the past year and I must say that the past year has been pretty interesting.

The one thing I have noticed, more than anything else, is the KIDS! There are children running the halls and jumping around in the aisles and throwing things around Watt Hall. This gives me great hope. If you are a parent reading this and think "Oh Boy, Please sit down kid and be quiet! It's Church and no one wants to listen to some child talking or running around". I am here to tell you this: Your child makes my day! I guarantee I am not alone in thinking this. The future has begun to look pretty interesting.

As we are all aware, we, as a church, are going through some readjustment.

Covid, at present, is certainly still among us, but we have grown strong and we will battle through. Many of our congregants have chosen to stay away. I cannot deny that this has hurt us. How do we move on and rebuild our church community? This is where I reach out and tell you how lucky you are. You have an amazing Board. Harold DeVenne, Candace Allen, Jeff Kargus, Allyson Mitchell Neufeld, Judy DeMone and of course the ministerial staff of Deborah Laforet and Carolyn Smith. This truly is the A-Team. They, along with you, have been working diligently to look for paths forward for us. The building is aging., as are we all. In order to continue our mission we must re-evaluate our situation. This has led to many meetings with community groups who are looking to partner with us in creating a new space. Will that space be here, on Rebecca Street, or in some new reimagined place? This is a question that is being



decided upon as we speak. Remember, your Board is working for all of us. We have asked you many tough questions. We have heard your heartfelt answers, We have promoted, and are promoting, your ideas and visions. We will come out of this uncertain time stronger and more united than believed.

I want to thank Catherine for continuing to impress and amaze us with our music. It would seem that clapping for our anthems is here to stay. I will also take a moment to thank our Abbot and Costello. Jeff and Jay. Thank you for your dedication to our family. We love you guys.

I would like to personally thank each of you for continuing this journey with me.

Onwards and Upwards.

Kent

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

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Once again I bring you the shortest update of the Annual Report.

All is well with the Manse.

Our renter has celebrated (with her family) 18 years on Sybella.

I may have more to say next year as a decision of the future of the site of our present building is being discussed and decided upon. Stay Tuned.....

Be good to your neighbours and be good to yourselves.

See you soon (I Hope!)

**Leadership Team – Jeff Kargus, Team Chair**

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The Leadership Team at St. Paul's wishes to extend its most sincere thanks and gratitude to all those who volunteered their time and energy in support of the Church and its many activities in 2022! As has always been the case, St. Paul's would cease to exist without your time and dedication and we never take that for granted. That said, we continue to have many needs around the Church and there is ample room for MORE volunteers. If you feel called to get more involved, feel free to reach out to Jeff Kargus at [jeffkargus@outlook.com](mailto:jeffkargus@outlook.com).

On the Ministry & Personnel (M&P) side, our small but mighty team continues to work with and support our ministerial and lay staff. The team is currently comprised of Candace Allen, Pat Freedman, Darlene Cox & Elizabeth Phillips, who joined team in 2022. Special thanks to Sharon Weise who stepped down in 2022 after many years of work with M&P – a well-deserved break .

In the Fall of 2022, we welcomed Maria & Will from Dutchmuch Cleaning Services to St. Paul's. Maria & Will have been keeping our facilities clean and ready for use by congregants and renters alike – stop by during the week and say 'hi'!

Our Communications Team continues to circulate eNews – St. Paul's Newsletter – on a biweekly basis, keeping everyone up-to-date the many events and activities around the Church. Thanks to Candace Allen for continuing to spearhead this.

***“Don't ever question the value of volunteers. Noah's Ark was built by volunteers; the Titanic was built by professionals.” ~ Dave Glynn***

**SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP – Allyson Neufeld, Team Chair**

The newly formed Spiritual Leadership Team has oversight over the following committees:

- Nurturing Care
- Worship
- Youth Ministry
- Outreach
- Affirming

The primary goal of the Spiritual Leadership Team is to support the various committees and people of St. Paul's with their worship needs and to connect, engage and transform St. Paul's in accordance with the mission of the church.

At the beginning of the year, we were worshipping online again as social distancing was in effect. Slowly, though, we began to worship in the building. By Palm Sunday, we were inviting people to register for worship, and eventually, people could attend without registering and were even able to remove their masks if comfortable. The choir is now singing live but still offering recordings, the children are in choir and Sunday School, and we are now gathering after worship for coffee hour. In December, for the first time in three years, we were able to gather people for worship on Christmas Eve. As Christmas Day and New Year's Day were on Sundays this year, the United churches of Oakville were invited to Trinity United for Christmas and St. John's United for New Year's. Also, this summer, we were blessed with some special worship leaders - Kent Palmer, the Rev. Sue Cowan, and our three team leaders, Allyson Mitchell, Jeff Kargus, and Harold Devenne. Worship continues to be a time where people gather, express concern for each other and the community, wrestle with scripture and God's call for us, and, thankfully, laugh and sing.

As an Affirming congregation, we continue to wave our flag, light our rainbow candle, and do our best to be public, intentional, and explicit that all people are valued and loved unconditionally. We again celebrated PIE Day, Pride Sunday, and in November celebrated our 2nd year as an Affirming Ministry in the United Church of Canada. In October, we also co-hosted a performance at Port Nelson United Church, of "Considering Matthew Shepard," a musical event about a young gay man who was killed in a hate crime.

Our youth ministry is slowly growing again. Carolyn invites youth to gather with her during worship about once a month, we had almost 20 youth volunteers for our summer camps, and some are finding ways to fulfill volunteer hours, whether it be through assisting with children's programming, gardening, or livestreaming.

We thank all those who support the work the worship of spiritual growth and development, those who lead our mission work, like Outreach and Affirm, those who support faith development through children and youth programs, workshops and book studies, and those who support our worship ministry, those who schedule greeters, ushers, and readers, tech support; and the others who keep banners, decorations, and flowers in season.

**Church Management – Harold DeVenne, Team Chair**

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As we came out of the worst of the pandemic, there was a fair amount of work required around the church property in 2022, excluding the Manse which the Trustees maintain.

The property is old and has had minimal maintenance over the past number of years. There were actions required to maintain safety and appearance of the property and facility. The following are the major activities undertaken over the past year.

**Ontario Government Anti-Hate Security Measures Grant**

Early in 2022 we became aware of a grant program from the Ontario government to help religious organizations implement anti-hate security measures. We applied for a \$7,500 grant and were approved and the funds were deposited into the church bank account. There was a list of items we could spend the funds on and a list of those which were excluded. The only condition was that we spend the funds prior to March 31, 2023.

We invited two security companies to provide a plan and quote for installing security cameras around the exterior of the building and also a new intercom for the east doors off of the main parking lot. We accepted the plan from A1 Security in Burlington as the quote matched the funds available. We now have 8 security cameras which cover the majority of the property and a new intercom system which allows Jeanne to see and talk to anyone ringing the bell at the east entrance. We also replaced the front Rebecca Street doorbell, as the intercom installation required decommissioning the old doorbell.

**Gardens**

The gardens are large and varied at St. Paul's and require significantly more ongoing effort than can be provided by volunteers. First, we would like to thank Frank and Jackie O'Byrne for their efforts and also those that helped them over the past number of years. They spent many hours trying to keep up with the weeds and the growth of the bushes and plants.

During 2022 we attacked the gardens down the side of the parking lot, in the courtyard and outside the gym doors, with the intent to reduce the effort required to maintain them and keep them attractive. A special thanks to Judy DeVenne, Judy DeMone, Bert Fonseca, Jackie O'Byrne and Janis Fournier who all helped. A special thanks to Carol Anne Hunt who made the cleanup of the gym door garden her personal project. We did manage to do a little work in the front gardens and clean up the area around the front sign.

**Faithful Footsteps Grant**

Over the past several years, an increasing number of bulbs in the sanctuary pendant lights have been going out. During the pandemic, it wasn't important to replace them, but we did begin getting quotes from two suppliers to replace them with LED bulbs. With the height and location of the lights, we decided to have the supplier install the bulbs and replace them all at the same time. During this process, we became aware of the Faithful Footsteps grant program.

This program would pay for two thirds of the project cost to make the facility energy efficient. The catch was that you could only access the grant program once. We started with a green audit and then determined what we could do to become energy efficient and put a project together for submission. The project includes the replacement of the sanctuary pendant light bulbs with LED bulbs, the replacement of the small domed light fixtures in the Narthex and sanctuary side isles with LED fixtures and bulbs, the replacement of fluorescent bulbs with LED bulbs in the Watt Hall light fixtures and the replacement of our three old refrigerators. The total cost of the project was \$23,350 and it has been approved for two thirds grant funds. The refrigerators will be purchased and installed in January, while the lighting work will be likely in February 2023.

Even as we wrestle with what our future looks like as a congregation, we maintain our efforts to reduce our impact on the environment and maintain a healthy environment within the facility.

The "Let There Be Light" campaign will be launched in January to help pay for the one third of the project costs we need to fund.

### **Flat roof repair and window repair**

In the spring of this year it was evident that the exterior of the "window wall" in the main entrance area between the sanctuary and the offices was deteriorating rapidly and we needed to do something. This was in addition to the ongoing leak above the bulletin board in the same area. Both appeared to be a result of the flat roof over that part of the building.

Replacement of the flat roof and window wall would cost in excess of \$85,000, which cannot be considered at this time. With the support and guidance of Jay Smith, we put together a plan to do repairs to temporarily stop or slow the leaks and keep the window wall from further deterioration. With the guidance of our foreman Jay Smith and worker bees Bert Fonseca, Rob Phillips and Harold DeVenne we repaired the flat roof and window wall to get us through a couple of years.

There is no way to over-state the value of the direction and support we received from Jay to get this done. Thanks Jay!

### **Tree cutting and trimming**

During the winter of 2021/2022 some large tree branches fell from a neighbour's property onto our west driveway and gym wall. There was minimal damage to a "no parking" sign hanging on the wall, and Tom Allen contacted both Clarke Trees and the neighbour about the fallen trees. Clarke removed the trees very quickly, and the neighbour paid for the work. This event started a discussion about other trees on our property and our neighbours.

There are many large trees on the church proper and manse property that are mature and require significant trimming and in some cases removal. We had a few of them along the parking lot that were damaged during a windstorm and Tom Allen became the lead once more to get these cleaned up quickly and also have the balance of our "forest" assessed. This work cost a little over \$4,000.

The assessment by Clarke Trees resulted in considerable trimming of two trees at the front west entrance, two trees on the manse property and many of the trees along the parking lot. This work cost about \$6,000. There is one tree at our west entrance which belongs to the owner of the house under

construction, and Clarke Trees connected with the Town about any trimming agreement that was part of their building approval and ultimately this tree was trimmed by Clarke at the owner's expense.

We hope that we won't need any further major work on the trees for a few years. Thank you, Tom, for volunteering to see the work completed on all three occasions.

### **New cleaners**

During the pandemic we had our prior cleaner resign due to the limited need. A young man going to university filled in while our prior cleaner took vacations, and he stepped into the reduced cleaning role during most of 2022. We realized that we needed dedicated cleaning when he returned to university in the fall. Jeff Kargus picked up the search and hiring process which resulted in hiring Dutchmuch Cleaning to keep our building as clean as possible while working 22 hours per week. If you see Will or Maria cleaning, please say hello to them. If you feel there is extra effort needed anywhere, please let Harold DeVenne know.

### **Major plumbing work**

During a visit to the electrical room to reset the internet and WIFI, Bert Fonseca noticed the condition of the plumbing overhead. The cast iron discharge plumbing for the upstairs washrooms was heavily rusted and upon further inspection, we saw total deterioration of the floor drain piping in particular. Any leaking into the electrical room could be dangerous.

Late in 2022 we had two plumbers review the situation and quote on the work required to make it safe and up to code. PlumbWize was selected to complete the work at a cost of roughly \$4,000. The work was completed in early January 2023.

### **Fire safety plan review**

We performed an administrative review and update of the fire safety plan and issued new plans where required. We have reimplemented the monthly equipment checks and will plan for a fire drill when the weather is much better.

Some fire safety equipment will be moved to make it more evident in case of fire and a few more pieces of equipment will be added. Fire equipment needs to be in plain site from anywhere in the area covered by that equipment. We have a few pieces which are not clearly visible. We will relocate them so they can be seen and accessed without delay.

### **Thanks to those who faithfully took care of the property during the pandemic and during 2022**

#### **Grass cutters**

This team cut the grass faithfully when required in order to keep our property looking cared for. If you would like to be part of this team, please contact Rob Phillips. The team is led by Rob Phillips and includes Tom Allen, Bryan MacMillan, Kent Palmer, Darren and Jack Pinette, Marc Therrien, Jeff Kargus, Jeff Laforet, Doug Francis, Sue MacDonald. A special thanks to Don Cox for the spring maintenance work getting the mowers ready for use.

**Night security team**

The night security team is a group of people who do a walk through the building in the evening to ensure that all windows are closed, outside doors are locked and closed properly, inside doors are locked if required and make sure all of the lights are off. We have some renters who stay later than others and they usually do a good job of closing up the area they are using, so it isn't necessary to do the check much later than 9pm. Saturday evening requires that the baseboard heaters in the sanctuary be set higher in the evening, and Sunday evening they are set back down. Thanks to Erny Neufeld, Bert Fonseca, Frank O'Byrne, Tom Allen and Harold DeVenne for doing the night security during 2022. Could still use 2-3 more people for the team. If you want more information, please speak to Harold DeVenne.

**Morning opening Team**

Thanks to those who open the Church facility on Sunday mornings before 9am. Erny Neufeld, Bryan MacMillan, Sue McDonald, Tom Allen and Harold DeVenne. We also need 2 more volunteers to complete the team, so we only need open the facility once every 6 weeks. This involves unlocking the outside doors, some inside doors, and potentially turning on the extra heat in the winter and shutting down the exhaust fan in the summer. Contact Harold DeVenne if this service is of interest to you.

**Repair team**

Thanks to Bert Fonseca, Tom Allen, and Rob Phillips who have routinely been available to complete minor repairs and maintenance around the site.

**Look ahead to 2023**

There are a number of initiatives which are being reviewed for 2023 and you may wish to lend a hand with one or more of these activities. We will send out more information if we move forward with any of them.

1. Work with the Halton Environmental Network (HEN) on our gardens. We have been in discussions about a spring effort to make our front gardens more sustainable with plants that are indigenous to the area and removing those that are not. HEN has offered to help and direct a spring cleanup that could include congregation members in the work. More information to come later. We will also continue working with the gardens that edge the parking lot to make them more manageable and attractive.
2. Sanctuary fire safety devices will be reassessed for placement and number of extinguishers available, and changes made to improve fire safety. As we have more activity in the Sanctuary, the occasional mix of candles, carpet and wood becomes an important concern when mixed with movement of older members with balance issues and young families providing leadership during the service. We want everyone involved, so we just need to ensure we are as prepared as possible for any mishap.
3. The Faithful Footsteps grant project will be completed in early 2023. The refrigerators will be installed in mid-January and the lighting completed in February (hopefully). The "Let There Be Light" campaign will kick off in January to raise funds to cover one third of the cost not covered by the grant.

4. Outside painting will be explored and priced. The south and north walls of the gym are showing their age with peeling paint. Due to the size and work required, this would need to be completed by a contractor. The repaired window wall also requires another coat of paint and the windows frames along the east entrance need loving care.
5. Brush control along the east side of the parking lot needs to be finished this year to control bushes.
6. We will ask a couple of sign companies to quote on refurbishing our front lawn sign. The process and cost for a new digital sign is quite high, so we are looking at other options in the short term.

## **Rentals**

Michele Swanson Mousley retired as rental coordinator in 2021 and we thank Michele for many years of service in that role. Jeanne picked up most of the work in 2022 as the groups returned. Rentals is a busy activity with groups using most of the spaces within the facility.

A list of our regular renters is as follows: Oakville Pentecostal Apostolic Church, Air Cadets, IODE, American Womens' Club, Zumba, Volleyball Teams, AA, Intrada Brass, TAI CHI, four Girl Guide groups, three Scouting groups, Halton Badminton Club, Little Kickers, Special Olympics.

## **FINANCE – Judy DeMone, Team Chair**

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Our finance team is small, but the impact is large. Many thanks to Grace Jeong, the Treasurer for St. Paul's. She makes sure that all our books are in order and takes care of the staff payroll processing with ADP. As Treasurer, Grace is our representative with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), an important role.

And thanks to Ron Shermet for keeping an eye on our account with RICOH Canada and for taking care of the count teams and doing the weekly offering deposits along with Bert Fonseca and myself. Prior to the pandemic we had 5 count teams, so this was not a weekly task for any one team. Now, this is just shared by the 3 of us and we are in need of another team or two. One member of the team must be able to do Execl input. If you're willing to help please let us know.

2022 was a challenging year financially, and we ended the year with a \$72,408 deficit. Envelope offerings continue to decline and rental has not rebounded to pre pandemic amounts. Offerings and rentals account for 83% of our income.

Expenses were considerably higher than budgeted. Part of this was that the budget was aspirational – hoping for a more robust return from the pandemic which has not materialized. Building operations were also well over budget, with increases in utilities and maintenance costs.

2023 will be equally challenging. As you have heard and have read about in other parts of this report we are working with Trinity Centres Foundation (TCF) to find a new way forward.



**OAKVILLE READY – Harold, DeVenne, Team Chair**

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Throughout 2022, we continued to be a participant and emergency location for the Oakville Ready initiative.

As you may recall, this is an initiative of the Town of Oakville to provide short term emergency safe spaces during declared emergencies in Oakville. These can be nature related emergencies such as flooding or wind damage, or other wide area emergencies where temporary refuge is required.

We would be called by the Town and asked to provide temporary shelter. As long as we have power, we would provide a safe space and opportunities for

neighbours to charge up their devices. If we can arrange it, we could also provide coffee, tea and cold drinks if possible. There is no lodging or overnight bedding down involved with this program.

We also provide a safe place for three daycares if they need to relocate during their normal hours. This safe space would last until the children are picked up by their parents. The daycare is responsible for ensuring the children are supervised.

Deborah Laforet and Harold DeVenne are the current main contacts. If anyone would like to be involved as a team member or want to more fully understand the initiative, please contact us.

**MISSION – Harold DeVenne, Team Chair**

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With approval of the new Governance Model at the last Annual Meeting, the responsibility for our Mission now rests with the smaller Board.

In 2019 we started the process of severing the manse, which started with a rezoning requirement and eventually an approval to sever, once we satisfied certain conditions. We received this notice in March of 2022, and we are now doing the work to meet the conditions. Once we have met the conditions, we will be given a certificate and two new lots will be created. We expect to complete the severance by March 2023, but will take no further action while we develop our plan as a congregation for the future.

The current approved plan, as decided by the congregation in 2018, is to begin the actions on the renovation once we put the new lot up for sale. It has been four years since that decision was made and a lot has happened in four years.

Early in 2022 the Board thought it would be prudent to take a fresh look at what options were available for the property in carrying out our Mission within the community. We approached the United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC) which is an arm of the United Church, to look at what we might do with our property and to prepare a proposal. The proposal presented to the Board did not match our stated mission, especially when it came to engaging the congregation with the community around us. The Board decided not to proceed with this proposal.

We were then introduced to Trinity Centres Foundation (TCF), which is an organization based in Montreal. Their focus is helping faith properties make an impact on their community. They have a number of projects across Canada, which you can further explore on their website: [trinitycentres.org](https://trinitycentres.org).

In the later portion of 2022, the Board engaged the congregation in discussions about our future as a congregation, and what was important to us as a congregation and carrying out our stated Mission. The “Table Talks” were well attended, and the output was circulated to the congregation.

The Board has now partnered with TCF to determine who we might partner with for the future and define what type and size of space needs we have for St. Paul's congregation and potential partners we may have. These needs will feed into any plans put forward for the facility and the property.

On January 21, 2023 we will have held a “Town Hall” which will include potential partners, other agencies and groups as well as any congregational members interested. 2023 will be an exciting year in the planning for our future as a congregation.

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

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We are a team of five (Carolyn Smith, Judy DeVenne, Jackie O'Byrne and BJ Young and Carilyn McNaught). Due to Covid, we have only met once in person and twice on zoom this year. However, we keep in touch with each other by phone or email.

There are 13 phone tree callers who used to phone each of the congregation 4, 3 or 2 times a month. As you know, we do not call as often now since we are not in lock down. However, I know these calls help to brighten their day.

Delicious soup, muffins, cookies and casseroles made by members of our congregation have been given to twenty families experiencing some difficulties. This helps nurture their bodies while our prayers, phone calls, 9 prayer bears, 5 prayer shawls have nurtured our recipient's spirits in 2022.

Tim Horton's gift cards of \$10 each were sent at Easter and Christmas to St. Paul's University or College students. We do not like to miss anyone but Judy DeVenne has to be notified so we have their addresses. Fifteen Christmas stockings were delivered to 15 people residing in Senior Homes or just living on their own. We have made some personal visits also.

On December 21<sup>st</sup> our "Longest Night" service was held in the sanctuary with 3 people attending. It was a very meaningful service conducted by our committee, ministers and Music Director, Catherine Arcand-Pinette. There were many candles and comforting words.

Over the year 293 cards were sent which included those cute cards made by the Vacation Bible School Children and the Christmas cards created by St. Paul's Sunday School children. We are so grateful to Tracy Mitchell for supervising the making of these creations which brought smiles to people's faces. Hopefully, soon we will get back to our Special Communion Services and Coffee Hour at a restaurant.

We could not be a committee without YOU advising us of people who need some nurturing, are in the hospital, sick, need a phone call, prayer shawl, prayer bear, card or food. If you are interested in making food, please contact Carilyn McNaught  
905 827 1828.

Go forward with an open mind, an open heart, and an ear to God's call. May we all remember to be open to the Spirit of our lives and in our faith Community.

**OUTREACH – Shirley-Anne Cooper-Maimot**

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This year we supported Kerr Street Mission with a very specific food drive. People at the church and in the community were invited to drop off bags of rice during the month of June to fill their shelves with food that is always needed. In January, there was a training opportunity from Neighbour Care Network through Kerr Street Mission held at the church. Five people from St. Paul's attended and two agreed to be volunteers at Kerr Street, supporting individuals working towards a more stable life. One more stepped forward this winter and took this training in January of 2023, so we now have a team of three.

Our Anniversary Offering in April went to the UCC Ukraine Fund Relief. Our Thanksgiving offering went to Fare Share Foodbank, which included financial offerings and fresh produce. We also donated our Christmas Eve offering to Fare Share Foodbank and Kerr Street Mission.

In December 2022 six of the eight United churches from Oakville met to discuss a joint venture in ministry. I was asked to sit on this committee and represent St. Paul's. It was my honour to do so. There was a lot of interest in joining forces to collaborate. We shared challenges, concerns, and ideas on how we can support our community and the community as a whole. We had amazing discussions on how we can support each other and as a group.

An organization that we all seemed passionate about in supporting is 4one Oakville. This program advocates to abolish human trafficking in Canada through public awareness and survivor support. We will be setting up an opportunity to donate to this cause. More information to follow.

Throughout our discussions we thought it would be a fabulous idea to get all seven of the United churches together. We have decided to host a picnic at Coronation Park sometime in June. More information to follow.

We will be meeting again at the end of March. I would love to hear from you St. Paul's. If you have any ideas for organizations we can support through donation or volunteering or a guest speaker please contact me at [sacs411@hotmail.com](mailto:sacs411@hotmail.com).

**REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP – Pat Mason and Bev Phillips, Co-Chair**

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During 2022, the Refugee team was composed of Bev Phillips and Pat Mason as co-chairs. Deborah Laforet is also involved as our Lead Minister and UCC liaison. This has been a long standing committee, with the current sponsorship applications being started in the fall of 2017. As you will recall, our sponsorship included eight members of one family. Four of these individuals arrived in 2019. We didn't realize at the time how lucky we were that they arrived so quickly, within 18 months. St. Paul's financial commitment to these four individuals was fully discharged in 2020. Juleet is now a senior, like many of us, and receives some financial support from the Canadian government. Her daughter Mariam, son Salam, and son-in-law Salam are all employed, and are integrating into Canadian society. Recently Mariam successfully obtained her Driver's license. Another big milestone that has been achieved is that Mariam and Juleet will soon receive their Canadian citizenship papers at a Citizenship ceremony. Salam Sakaria is also working towards achieving his citizenship papers.

Bev Phillips has continued as our main liaison with the family members. This is important, as we still await the arrival of the other four members of the family that St. Paul's sponsored. They continue to live in Lebanon in difficult conditions. In August 2021, Bev Phillips and Pat Mason met with family members and an immigration lawyer to discuss options to help bring Anas and Suzan, and their sons Tonee and Dani to Canada. Subsequently, Council Executive gave us permission to spend \$5,000.00 from the Refugee Fund to retain the services of this lawyer. After various meetings at our MPs (John Oliver, Anita Anand) office, many letters and requests for information from the lawyer, and letters to the Honourable Ministers of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship (IRCC), (Marco Mendocino and Sean Fraser), we are still in the same place - limbo. The family has been living in Lebanon since fleeing Iraq in August 2014. As Iraqi Christians they were harassed and received death threats from ISIS soldiers when ISIS took over parts of Iraq following the evacuation of English/American coalition forces. Lebanon is a Christian Arabic nation, and although the family is physically safe there, the parents are not allowed to work legally and the boys are not allowed to attend Lebanese schools. Refugees have no status. We will continue our efforts to bring Anas, Suzan, Tonee and Dani to Canada.

Submitted by Pat Mason

**GARAGE SALE – Shirley-Anne Cooper-Maimot and Jeff Laforet - Organizers**

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The garage sale was back in person! Volunteers were asked to donate items, set up, organize tables, sell and clean up. Thank you for your tireless efforts.

So nice to have the garage sale back. What a great way to reach our community, especially those who are struggling or are newcomers. Since the pandemic we know many have been struggling to get back on their feet. As well all the newcomers to our community as our garage sale is a great way to get items for their needs. It is also a fantastic way to meet people in the community and for St. Paul's to open our doors and welcome all.

Thank you, Pubs and Pews for providing a BBQ setting out front. Great way to socialize and meet those who came out. Well done boys!

We look forward to see you all in 2024!

**BAZAAR REPORT – Shirley-Anne Cooper-Maimot - Organizer**

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2022 Holiday Jingle Bazaar was a huge success. It was our first year back in person! Was nice to see so many come out and support and socialize. Great to feel normal again.

Our popular Country Store was a huge hit. Thank you to Catherine Arcand-Pinette and Candace Allen for all your hard work in organizing. Volunteers were asked to make soup, fudge/candy and preserves. The ladies did a superb job in setting up and decorating the table.

Our bake table was back with a vengeance. Bev Phillips graciously took on the lead. What an amazing job she did. Well done! Volunteers were asked to back, package and work the bazaar. Nice to see so many baked goods.

The silent auction was a success especially since it was back in person. There were several nice items donated. There were gift baskets and items. All was bid on. Shirley-Anne Cooper Maimot created the bid sheets, but together gift baskets, set up and organized volunteers.

Candace Allen did a great job of organizing and running the Snack Shack this year, with some help from Judy DeMone and it was also a great success, serving soup and buns, hot dogs, muffins, cookies, coffee and tea and juices. Lots of people got to enjoy a nice lunch snack as they took a break from shopping.

Marjorie Boyce took the lead on the knitting table. She organized volunteers to sort, set up and organize the table. There were countless beautifully knitted items donated. Thank you to all!

The vendors were happy to be back. So nice to see many familiar vendors return. There were about 28 artisans.

Thank you to all who organized and the countless number of volunteers who helped make St. Paul's Holiday Jingle Bazaar a success. JAZZ HANDS!

Thank you St. Paul's for all of your support. We look forward to seeing you at the 2023 Holiday Jingle!

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

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So as the effects and the constraints of the Pandemic have been winding down, Pubs and Pews has been winding up! We have moved away from our computers and back into the establishments of joy and harmony -- pubs. Why and how do we do it? Well, its hard to pick one word to sum it all up:

- Desire to see each other monthly
- Regaling of stories of the past and exaggerating our accomplishments
- Intelligent debates of the likes of 'Is Soup A Meal?
- Necessity of 3-4 tables as we get between 12-15 guys every outing
- Keeping in mind that not everyone consumes alcohol, and that's okay.
- Setting up events at the church, and other manual labour, is a calling card.

This is a men's group such as it is, and we have events where all can join. We have fundraised, contributed to the church bottom line, and will be purchasing a new grill for the church.

We are looking forward to a new year of different pubs, patios, and partakers as this silly experiment makes another trip around the sun. Thanks to all who support and who put up with us. And seriously, I love these gentlemen (and Kargus).

## APPENDIX

St. Paul's United Church Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday March 20, 2022

Meeting held in Person and on Zoom

Meeting Started at 11:30am. Members In-person #25, Members on Zoom #16

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer                      Deborah Laforet  
 Deborah expressed everyone's concern about the Ukraine and the devastation there. She lit a candle with a prayer of support of the people of Ukraine.  
 She also mentioned the faith community of Dar Al-Tawheed Islamic Centre that was attacked the day before and offered prayers for them as well.
  
2. Call for nomination of Chairperson              Deborah Laforet  
 Motion to nominate Judy DeMone for Chairperson for this meeting  
**Motion:** Don Cox                      Seconded: Harold DeVenne                      CARRIED
  
3. Call for nomination of Secretary                      Judy DeMone  
 Motion to nominate Candace Allen for Secretary of this meeting.  
**Motion:** Darlene Cox                      Seconded: Harold DeVenne                      CARRIED
  
4. OMNIBUS MOTION
  - Motion to extend voting privileges to adherents
  - Motion to approve agenda
  - Congregational Minutes
    - a. Motion to waive the reading of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on March 21, 2021
    - b. Motion to approve Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on March 21, 2021  
 \*\*One omission: In the list of Standing Committees, Worship with Chair Kristina Kriston will be added.
    - c. Motion to approve the 2021 Annual Report excluding Financial Statements  
 \*\*One correction on the "Memoriam" page, year should read 2021 not 2019  
 \*\*One omission: Please add Venetia Jean Binns Ruzzi to the Memoriam List**Motion:** Darren Pinette                      Seconded: Pat Freedman                      CARRIED
  
5. Appreciation for Council Executives and Team Members (retiring and continuing)



Kent sent out love and appreciation to everyone involved in keeping the church moving forward. Thank you, the Council and Team chairs and Team members who are the “Life Blood” of St. Paul’s. We are looking forward to a new year. Kent Palmer

6. Proposed Governance Model

a. Presentation of the model Carolyn Smith

Carolyn presented the new model with smaller groups, less meetings but hopefully people will step forward to help in their interests. The Board is Chair, Secretary, Financial Representative and Ministers. The groups are M&P/Leadership Team, Church Management Team, Spiritual Leadership Team. As well as a representative to Horseshoe Falls Region.

Discussion: A question was presented about funding of programs in the budget. These will be addressed by the Board as they arise.

**Motion:** To approve the new proposed governance model. Bert Fonseca

Seconded: Judy DeVenne CARRIED

7. Approval of Council/Board Introduction of Board Members Deborah Laforet

Chair: Kent Palmer Secretary: Candace Allen

Finance Representative: Judy DeMone

Ministers: Deborah Laforet, Carolyn Smith.

M&P/Leadership Team Representative: Jeff Kargus

Church Management Team Representative: Harold DeVenne

Spiritual Leadership Team Representative: Allyson Mitchell Neufeld

Motion to accept and approve new Board and Management Team.

**Motion:** Ron Shermet Seconded: Carilyn McNaught CARRIED

8. Ministry and Personnel Motion Darlene Cox

The Ministry and Personnel Committee has recommended, and the Council has approved, that the congregation give a 1.3% increase in 2022 salaries to our lay staff. This is consistent with the 1.3% mandated increase for ministerial staff

**Motion:** Darlene Cox Seconded: Bert Fonseca CARRIED

9. Financial Statement Presentation Darren Pinette

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

**Motion:** Darren Pinette Seconded: Don Cox CARRIED

b. Budget Presentation and Motion to Approve 2022 Budget Darren Pinette

**Motion:** Darren Pinette      **Seconded:** Harold DeVenne      **CARRIED**

c. Update of Financial Priorities: Darren Pinette

4following priorities in 2021 and beyond...

1. Guide Council to pause or defer expenditures if a June re-opening is at risk or material income pressure persists. **Complete**
2. Evaluate and implement alternative investment options to the current GIC approach in order to generate a better return on investment while managing to a reasonable level of risk to the Church. **In progress**
3. Guide the Church toward a balanced budget (or, near-balanced budget) for 2022. **Complete**
4. Evaluate options and decide on approach to deploy the McKay bequest over the short and medium term. **Deferred**
5. Develop a medium-term financial outlook (3 to 5 years) in order to identify and quantify opportunities for / risks to sustainable growth, and help drive prioritization. **Not Started**

10. Motion to allocate Anniversary offering for 2022

**MOTION:** The United Church of Canada has an initiative program to donate to the Ukraine Relief Fund. In light of the current situation in Ukraine, the Outreach Team would like to make a motion to use the Anniversary Offering to support this cause.

**Motion:** Tom Allen      **Seconded:** Darlene Cox      **CARRIED**

11. New Business Jeff Laforet

1. Jeff sent out a huge Thank you to everyone involved in making this Annual General meeting a success. Everyone's involvement is important and is very much appreciated.
2. A comment was made on the Zoom, not heard by the in-person members but heard by the Zoom members as the person making the comment was unmuted. Mistakes are made and we are all here to hold up everyone. All is forgiven.  
Deborah and Carolyn will follow up with those involved.

12. Courtesies

Pat Friedman expressed the heart felt appreciation of the congregation of St. Paul's to all staff, both ministerial and lay staff, for all their hard work this past year. We have given support to us above and beyond expected. Thank you.

Envelopes were given to Deborah, Carolyn, Tracy, Catherine and Jeanne.

Darren Pinette thanked Grace for all her hard work this year as Treasure, keeping the financial statements up to date and helping him whenever she could.

Judy DeMone thanked Dylan Norton for his excellent job keeping our church clean for us this past year.

13. Close Meeting    Time: 12:35pm

14. Benediction: Give thanks to our loving God for hope and blessings. Carolyn Smith