

# St. Paul's United Church

10:30 a.m. November 29th 2015

First Sunday in Advent—Hope

\* Please stand as you are able or sit as you prefer \*

## Prelude

**Introit**                      *Lord Prepare Me (X2)*                      *MV 18*  
*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary*  
*Pure and holy, tried and true*  
*With thanksgiving, I'll be a living,*  
*Sanctuary for you.*

## \*Greeting

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all,  
*and also with you.*

**Welcoming the Light**  
**Welcome and Announcements**

## Call to Worship (Responsive)

People of faith, prepare for the coming reign of Christ!  
*As we gather to pray and sing and listen, a spirit of anticipation and hope fills us.*

The days are surely coming, says Our God, when justice and righteousness will prevail.

*May our worship illuminate our hearts and minds, freeing us to respond joyfully to God's call in the days to come.*

**Reading:**                      *Jeremiah 33:14-16*  
**Opening Prayer**

**\*Hymn**                      *O Come, O Come Emmanuel (V 1-4)*                      *VU 1*

## Prayer of Reconciliation (Responsive)

Loving Creator, you call us to rejoice in your promise of the birth that is to come, but we are afraid.

*You invite us into a world where justice and righteousness prevail, but we turn away in fear.*

## St. Paul's Contact Information

stpaulsunitychurch@nb.aibn.com

www.stpaulsunity.ca Tel. 458-1183 Fax: 458-1944

**Keep up to date on upcoming activities  
and stay in touch in-between Sundays!**

<http://www.facebook.com/stpaulsunityfredericton>

<b>Minister:</b>	Rev. Richard Bowley	rev.bowley@outlook.com
<b>Pastoral Care:</b>	Rev. Bob Jones	476-8020
<b>Music Director/Organist:</b>	Alexis Ervin	aervin17@gmail.com
<b>Choir Accompanist:</b>	Vivian Ni	
<b>Sexton:</b>	Joe Robicheau	robicheaujoseph@rogers.com
<b>Office Administrator:</b>	Cathy Simpson	cathysimpson@nb.aibn.com

## Rev. Richards's Office Hours

<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>Afternoon By Appointment</b>
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>8:00—Noon, 1:00-4:00</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>8:00—Noon</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>1:00—4:00</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>By Appointment</b>

## Regular Weekly Activities

<b>Monday-Friday</b>	8:30 am-4 pm	Adult Learning Association
	11:30-1 pm	AA - Youth Lounge
<b>Mon., Wed., Friday</b>	12-1 pm	Exercise Group - Gym
<b>Tuesday &amp; Thursday</b>	1-4 pm	Quilting - Quilter's Parlour
<b>Tuesday &amp; Saturday</b>	7-9 pm	AA - Youth Lounge
<b>Monday</b>	6-8 pm	Shoe Box Dance - Gym
	7 p.m.	Men's Conversation Group
<b>Last Monday (month)</b>	7-8 p.m.	Stress Release Exercisers—Hall
<b>Tuesday</b>	6:30-8 pm	Beavers & Cubs - Gym
	7 pm	Fredericton Choral Society
	7 pm	River Valley Chorus-Sanctuary
<b>Wednesday</b>	9-11 am	The Pantry
	9:30-11:30 am	Play Group - Gym

# Share the joy of Christmas

## ... with a child

Check out the Children's Wish Tree at the front of the sanctuary after the service today.

On it, you will find gift tags bearing Santa wishes from 40 children whose families are being looked after by the Fredericton Food Bank this Christmas. Select a tag for a boy or a girl, a tot or a teen. Please buy the gift the child would like and return it to the Church by **Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>**. **(Please write your name and the gift tag number you have selected on one of the index cards and place it in the basket by the tree. This will help us keep track of who has selected which angel).**



If you prefer, you can help by making a monetary donation in the White Gift envelope which will be included in the bulletins next week.

St. Paul's has always been generous in helping those who have little. Let us continue this tradition as we celebrate this wonderful time of year.



If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Phillips ([carrieph74@gmail.com](mailto:carrieph74@gmail.com)) or call 459-8586.

**Multicultural Association of Fredericton presents:**

Lunch and Learn sessions for Sponsorship Groups & Volunteers

When: Every Thursday 12-1:00pm

Where: Multicultural Association of Fredericton (MCAF)

28 Saunders Street, Rm. 136

Nov. 26: Orientation/Life skills sessions for newcomers

Dec. 3: Working with interpreters

Dec. 10: Health services

Dec. 17: Culture Shock [cosman@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:cosman@nbnet.nb.ca)

We long for an easy path into your promised world, but you warn us that there is no easy way.

***Birth new life within us, that we may abide in your perfect love - the love that casts out fear.***

**Assurance of God's Love & Lord's Prayer**

**Time for the Young and Young at Heart**

**Advent Candle Lighting**

We know that God is always with us.

***We are not alone; we live in God's world.***

This Advent we anticipate new understandings of the hope Emmanuel brings. As we wait, may we remember to watch out and stay alert,

***for nobody knows when that day or hour will come. But as people born of the miracle, we live in hope.***

*(First Advent Candle is lit)*

We light this candle as a sign of God's gift of hope, and as a reminder that even as we wait, God is with us always.

***We are not alone. Thanks be to God.***

**Candle Lighting Verse: Hope Shines as a solitary Star MV 220**

***Hope shines as a solitary star, faith is the inner light.***

***You and I together mirror the light of lights,***

***And illumine the pathway home.***

**Prayers of the People**

**\*Hymn** *In the Bleak Mid-winter (v 1-3)* VU 55

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offertory**

**\*Dedication Verse** VU 55 (vs 4)

***What can I give him, poor as I am?***

***If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.***

***If I were a wise one, I would do my part.***

***Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.***

**Dedication Prayer (Unison)**

***Giver of all good things, as we offer these gifts to you, open our eyes to see more clearly all that we have been given and all that we have to give. Stretch our capacity to give of ourselves: our love, our companionship, and our material resources, wherever they are needed. Amen.***

## Welcoming of New Members (see insert)

Reading: Luke 21:25-36

Rev. Richard

### Anthem

Message *Where's the Hope?*

\*Hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (V 5-7) VU 1

### \*Commissioning (Responsive)

Go into the world awake to the signs of God's invitations to new life.

***We know that the reign of Christ draws nearer with each right action we choose.***

### Benediction

Closing *A Candle is Burning* VU 6

***A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright;***

***A candle of Hope in December's dark night.***

***While angels sing blessings from heav'n's starry sky***

***Our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is nigh.***

Postlude *Immortal, Invisible*

arr. Kendall

***We invite you to stay and enjoy the postlude***



**Greeters:** Katie & Eric Lakes  
**Coffee Hour Nov. 29** Worship Committee

**Congregational Meeting** today following Worship service to choose/name a joint search committee and to discuss our ministry and vision for the future.

### Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers

#### Christmas Wreath Sale

Double sided 12 inch balsam fir wreaths: undecorated \$12, decorated \$14 (pine cones, white cedar branches, red velvet bow). Please contact Sue Short at 455-5377, Anna Goddard at 459-8771 or Nancy MacGarvie at 455-3026. Deadline for orders is November 22, pick up November 29 at 83 Grey Street. Funds raised will be donated to the Stephen Lewis Foundation and the Help Lesotho Campaign.

### New Member Sunday: November 29th

Take a moment today to greet those who have newly become members. Some are brand new faces and others have been here for a few years. Greet them in the name of our Companion Christ **"The Observer"** It's renewal time! Subscription cost for 2016 is \$25. Please contact Cathy Simpson at 458-1183 to start or renew your subscription.

**United Church Calendars** are available in the office for \$6.

Please contact Cathy Simpson at 458-1183 if interested.

The **Annual Advent Carol Festival**, organized by our Music Director Alexis Ervin and members St. Paul's choir, will take place here on Wednesday, December 2 beginning at 7:30 p.m. Twelve local church and community choirs will join us to present a program of new, as well as familiar, Christmas music. This is a fundraiser for the Fredericton Food Bank; a freewill offering will be received. The event has raised more than \$100,000 over the past 25 years. We look forward to your continued support.

**Men's Conversation Group:** Tomorrow (Monday) at 7 p.m. in the Parlour, the Men's Conversation Group will continue.

**Open Bible Study:** This afternoon's Bible study will be held at **2 p.m. in the Ladies Parlour** on the main level. Readings for today (and beyond) are on the website at <http://www.stpaulsunited.ca/open-bible-study/>

## Financial Contributions for Nov., 15, 2015

### 2015 Weekly Budget

Envelopes	4,779.25
Loose	53.00
PAR	<u>1,845.55</u>
	6,677.80

\$5,200.00

**+ \$ 1,447.80**

***Thank you and may God truly bless and multiply your gifts***