

# St. Paul's United Church

Advent 1- Dec. 3, 2017



Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.  
At the points marked \* - those who are able are invited to stand.

*John 18:36-37 - Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'*

## THE PEOPLE GATHER

**Organ Prelude:** Sleepers Wake, A Voice is Calling Bach

### \*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.**

**\*Advent Candle Liturgy** Mike, Tricia, Samantha & Weston Berry  
We begin our journey the way that we should begin any journey:  
with hope.

**Hope that darkness is temporary, that pain is fleeting. Hope that the dawn is coming, hope that our help is close at hand.**

Like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, we trust that God walks with us no matter where we go.

**And so we light this candle for Hope, a reminder that Christ lives in our hearts even as we prepare for his return.**

*Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.*

*When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid. ( Hope is a Star VU 7 vs 1)*

## Welcome & Announcements

## St. Paul's Contact Information

stpaulsunitedchurch@nb.aibn.com www.stpaulsunited.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/stpaulsunitedfredericton>

**Ministers:** Rev. Richard Bowley rev.bowley@outlook.com  
Rev. Michelle Armstrong michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com  
Pastor Sarah Magie is on *maternity leave*

**Organist:** Dr. Sharon Pond spond@bellaliant.net

**Choir Director:** Alexis Ervin aervin17@gmail.com

**Sexton:** Sam Zakaria

**Office Admin:** Cathy Simpson cathysimpson@nb.aibn.com

## Office Hours

	<b>Rev. Richard</b>	<b>Rev. Michelle</b>
<b>Sunday:</b>	By Appointment	By Appointment
<b>Monday:</b>	8:30—12	9-12, afternoon by appointment
<b>Tuesday:</b>	8:30—12	9-12, afternoon by appointment
<b>Wednesday:</b>	By Appointment	9-12:30, 1:30-4
<b>Thursday:</b>	8:30—12	By appointment

*These hours are subject to change due to Emergency Pastoral Care, meetings and other church business elsewhere.*

## Upcoming 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>Monday</b>	7 pm	Spirit Sisters - Ladies Parlour
<b>Tuesday &amp; Thursday</b>	1-4 pm	Quilting - Quilter's Parlour
<b>Tuesday &amp; Saturday</b>	7-9 pm	AA - Youth Lounge
<b>Tuesday</b>	10 am	Sr. Bible Study (next on Jan.9th)
	6:30-8 pm	Beavers & Cubs - Gym
	7 pm	F'ton Choral Society
	7 pm	River Valley Chorus-Sanctuary
<b>Wednesday</b>	9 am	Pantry
	10 am	Parlour Prayers
	7 pm	Men's Conversation Group
<b>Thursday</b>	7 pm	Senior Choir Practice - Hall
<b>Friday (1st and 3rd)</b>	6:30-9 pm	Youth Group
<b>Sunday</b>	11:45 am	Children's Choir - Ladies Parlour

The **Advent Carol Festival**, held each year at St. Paul's, will take place on Wednesday, December 6 beginning at 7:30 p.m. Local church and community choirs will join us to present a program of new, as well as familiar, Christmas music. There will also be an opportunity for the audience to join in the festive singing. A freewill offering will be received with proceeds going to the CBC Feed a Family Campaign.

**'Twas the Night Before Christmas Reading:** Come to St. Paul's to hear the classic story, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas as read by Tim Yerxa. There will be musical offerings as well from The Vocal Collective, Sharon Pond, and Alexis Ervin. Join us for the story and the music at 7 PM on Friday December, 15th. There will be a Free Will offering.

The United Church **Observer:** If you are interested in a subscription for next year please place your \$25 in an envelope with your name and address (if new or changed) on it and drop it off in the office with Cathy or place it in the collection plate.

Church Calendars are on sale through the office at \$8 per calendar.

**2018 Offering Envelopes** are ready for pick-up. If you are not using envelopes or on PAR and wish to contribute to the life of the church please contact Cathy to select a method of participating.

### St. Paul's Upcoming Events

Dec. 6	@ noon	Advent Recital—Sanctuary
	@ 7:30 p.m.	Advent Carol Festival
Dec. 13	@ noon	Advent Recital , CD launch & reception
Dec. 15	@ 7 p.m.	'Twas the Night Before Christmas reading

### Last week of Advent/First week of Christmas Schedule

Dec. 21	@ 7:00 p.m.	Blue Christmas/Longest Night (@ Wilmot)
Dec. 24	@ 10:30 a.m.	Advent 4: Love
	@ 3:00 p.m.	Family Christmas Eve Service
	@ 7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candle-light Service
	@ 11:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Communion Service
Dec. 31	@ 10:30 a.m.	Joint Worship @ St. Paul's

\* **Gathering Hymn:** There's a Voice in the Wilderness VU 18

#### \*Call to Worship:

Tis the season for Christmas parties, Christmas baking, Christmas shopping.

**In all our Christmas preparations we hope that everything goes smoothly, we hope the season will be perfect.**

But it leaves us tired and burnt out, hoping for something that will sustain us.

**We need something beyond ourselves, a grounding for our hope.**

So we come, seeking God, seeking the ground of our hope, seeking light for our souls.

**Let us worship the God of Hope!**

#### Prayer of the day

**Children's Choir:** Who Are We Waiting For Ruth Schram  
Accompanied by Alexis Ervin (piano) and Kirsten Simpson (violin)

#### Story Time for the Young and Young at Heart

#### LISTENING FOR TRUTH

**Anthem** Star of Advent Choplin

**Today's Scripture:** Daniel 3:1, 8-30 Dramatization by Youth  
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks be to God.**

**Message** Hope in the Heat Rev Michelle

#### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* **Hymn:** Let My Spirit Always Sing MV 83

**Invitation & Offertory** Basque Carol Tucker

\***Dedication Verse:** In the Bleak Midwinter 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 man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him -- give my heart.**

#### \* Prayer of Dedication

**Sacrament of Holy Communion (see insert)**

**SENDING FORTH**

\* **Closing Hymn:** O Master Let me Walk with Thee VU 560

\* **Commissioning & Benediction (Responsive):**

We have heard your words, and come into your presence

**With renewed hope for the world in which we live we leave this sanctuary.**

Called by God we return to the world to plant seeds of hope rooted in the truth of this season

**God is with us, we are not alone, Emanuel is coming yet again.**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, So that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Choral Closing:** Peace Be With You MV 215

**Peace be with you, peace forever,  
peace be with you my friends.**

**Till we meet again, may God be with you.**

**Peace, peace, peace.**

**Ministry of Music:** Noel Polonaise Guilment

*We invite you to stay and enjoy the Ministry of Music*

**Greeters:** Etta Davis & Barb MacBean

**Ushers:** Left Side: Linda Lamont & John Gaskin

Center: Isabel Green

Right Side: Ann & Harold Raper

Upstairs: Andrew, Hope, Laura & Graham Steeves

**Coffee:** Dec. 3 Congregational Board



The bulletin covers for today's service have been donated in loving memory of Jeff McGuigan by his parents, Barb, Mel and their family.

The **Adult Bible Study** has finished up until January 9th, 2018.

**Men's Conversation Group:** Will not be meeting this week because of the Advent Carol Festival.

In today's bulletin please note the **White Gift envelope**. The monies collected from these envelopes are divided equally with 50% going to the Salvation Army and the other 50% staying here at St. Paul's in our Benevolent Fund. St. Paul's Benevolent Fund covers costs such as; brown bag items, bus tickets, food gift cards, medications, gas cards and sometimes clothing needed to get a job....there is always a need. We do appreciate those who donate to this fund throughout the year and especially at this time of year when the needs seem greater. Please return the envelopes by December 17th.

**'Christmas Wish Tree' Reminder!**

Thank you for supporting!! Your gifts are due **TODAY**. If you forgot them, please contact Carrie at #459-8586 or by email [carrieph74@gmail.com](mailto:carrieph74@gmail.com)



**Spirit Sisters:** Final gathering before Christmas will be tomorrow and we are going out! Meet us at McGinnis Landing at 6pm. A chance to have a meal together, discussion and celebrate the season and work that we have done over the last few months. You are invited to take part in a small new to you gift exchange - it could be anything the only catch is it has to be something that is already in your home (NO newly bought items)...maybe that calculator that the cancer society sent you, a gift you got at an exchange that you will never use, the unmatched plate that hangs around your cupboard...the possibilities are endless and should be a lot of fun!

**Youth Group** will meet for our Christmas Gathering on Dec 22 @ 5:30 (note time change) for potluck supper and Christmas party. More details to come via email. So mark your calendar and keep your eyes open for more details. If you are/have a youth in Middle School thru High School and are not receiving emails please contact [michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com](mailto:michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com) to be added to our list

**Advent Recitals:** Spend your lunch time at St. Paul's as we celebrate the Advent season with music. On Wednesday, Dec. 6th, we will have Piano and Flute music offered by Dianne Roxborough Brown and Julie Grant, and on Wednesday, Dec. 13th, Dr. Sharon Pond will offer us her gift through the playing of the Organ. Following there will be a Reception and CD launch for her CD of Christmas music played on the organ. Get your copy, and take in some of the music in person. We hope you can make it to one or both of these days as we make our way through the Advent season towards Christmas.

2017 Weekly Budget for November      \$ 7,500.00

Financial Contributions for November 26, 2017

Envelopes	\$7,926.25
Loose	280.00
Anniversary Envelopes	1,697.25
PAR	<u>2,032.48</u>
	\$11,935.98



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

**Today in Sunday School:** December unit: A Time is Coming. Anchor Point: We prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth. Bible Verse for the month: "The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up a righteous descendant from David's line, and he will rule as a wise king. (Jeremiah 23:5). Bible Story: A Baby is Coming, (Jeremiah 23 5-8): Jeremiah prophesized that God would raise up a wise and just king from David's lineage who would fulfill all the duties of kingship. It is worth noting that Jeremiah's description of the ideal king had to do with how he treated his own people.