

Living Waters

December 2025/ January 2026



Leapin' Lizards!

This Bearded Dragon, named Ozzie, was just one of the many creatures sprinkled with holy water at the annual Blessing of the Pets. See photos Page 8 & 9.



**25 banner
years P 6**



**Thanksgiving
festivities P 12**



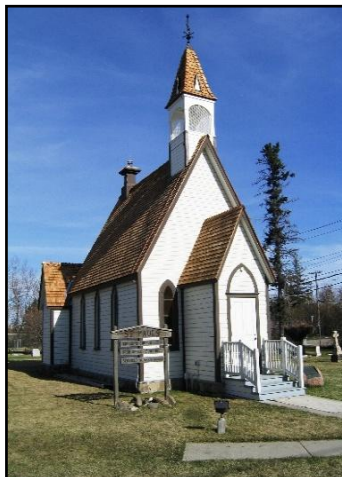
**Karaoke
kool P 22**



**God's
surprise P 30**

Merry Christmas!

St. Paul's information



7 Sunmills Green SE
Calgary, Alberta T2X 3P6

Phone
(403) 256-1428

Email: office@stpaulscalgary.ca
Website: www.stpaulscalgary.ca



Service times

Our 10:00 am Sunday Services can be shared in-person or online (live streamed on our website and YouTube

(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCldxfHv5pFYST--j8as1GVg>) to access Services on our website, please click on the Sermon tab in the top right-hand corner of the home page).

Incumbent

The Rev'd Tony Hilling

Assistants

The Rev'd Sean Devlin
The Rev'd Cyril Haynes
The Rev'd Betty Nadurak

Parish Council 2025

Incumbent's Warden:

Ingrid Bolton

People's Warden: Paul Bourgeois

Deputy Incumbent's Warden:

Muyi Ekomwenrenren

Administration: Bill Hart

Community Connection:

Cec Sparrow

Hospitality: Laura Anne Fink

Maintenance:

Muyi Ekomwenrenren

New Members: Joan McCartney

Pastoral Care: Betty Nadurak

Outreach: John L'Ecuyer

Sunday School: Kerin Spaargaren

Worship: Dinah Breu

Youth: Cheryl Scott

Youth Representative:

Cameryn Scott

Other Members of Council

Tracy Griffin

Emeka Nweke

Synod Delegates

Barb Leinweber
Kathleen Robinson

MCES Designated

Directors

Barry O'Flynn

Treasurer

Ingrid Bolton

Parish Ministries

Worship Ministries

Altar Guild - Barb Leinweber
Sacramental Assistants - Ed Mullaney
Choir - Paul Bourgeois
Prayers of the People - Dinah Breu
Readers - Robbie Collier
Servers - Cheryl Scott/Father Cyril
Sidespeople - Suzanne Wray
Prayer Team - Dinah Breu
Envelope Secretary - Debra Brisbin
Counters - Roxie Hall

Fellowship Ministries

Greeters - Roxie Hall
Coffee Time - Hospitality
Ladies' Luncheon - Gloria Ford
Men's Breakfast - Paul Bourgeois
Secret Friends - Julie Wilson

Christian Education

Nursery - Cheryl Scott
Youth - Cheryl Scott
Adult Education - Clergy & Lay
Stewardship - vacant
Anglican Fellowship of Prayer
- Dinah Breu
Sunday School Co-ordinator
- Kerin Spaargaren
Prosper Omagoro

Youth Ministry

S.P.Y - Cheryl Scott

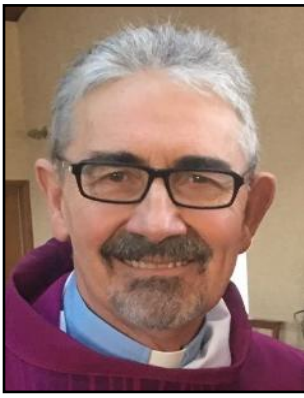
Pastoral Ministries

Pastoral Care Team - Betty Nadurak
Hospital Visiting - Clergy
& Pastoral Care Team
Home Visiting - Clergy
& Pastoral Care Team
Casserole Ministry - Linda Hubert
Prayer Group - Dinah Breu
Prayer Chain - Dinah Breu
Father Lacombe Care Centre Sunday
Eucharist - Kathleen Robinson
Card Ministry - Pauline Payne
Grief Support Group - Laura Anne Fink
Quilt/Shawl Prayer Ministry
- Laura Anne Fink

Outreach Ministries

Age Care Seton, Food Bank, CAWST,
Alpha House etc. shared through
Outreach Committee - John L'Ecuyer
Alongside Hope - Doreen Peters
Living Waters - Chizoba Ezeani

Traditional Land Acknowledgement: *Creator, you made all people of every land. In the spirit of respect and truth, we honour the traditional Treaty 7 territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy, including the Siksika, Kainai and Piikani Nations, the Stoney Nakoda, including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley Nations, and the Tsuu T'ina Nation. We acknowledge the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region Three. In the spirit of reconciliation and because we are all treaty people, we also acknowledge all people who make their homes in the traditional Treaty 7 territory of Southern Alberta.*



The Rev'd Tony Hilling

INCUMBENT'S MESSAGE

ADVENT

Have you ever read a book backwards? I mean, have you ever read a mystery novel and took a quick peek at the end to see if you guessed right who the murderer was? It's kind of cheating, isn't it? But we do it anyway. As Christians, one of our perks is knowing that it all ends well; we have taken a peek at the last chapter, and we can breathe a sigh of relief. Here's a story from Scotland that will illustrate this.

'During the war, there were two Scottish prisoners of war: one a professor from Glasgow (my old city), named MacDonald, and a Scottish chaplain who were both placed in a prison camp. MacDonald was with the Americans and the chaplain with the Brits; a high wire fence separating the two transatlantic prisoners. Unknown to the guards, and with old Yankee knowhow, the Americans had constructed a homemade radio with which they were able to get news from the outside as to how the war was going. Every day, MacDonald would take a headline or two to the fence and share it with the chaplain in the ancient Gaelic language, indecipherable to all but Scots and Irish. One day, the news came over the radio that the German high command had surrendered, and the war was over. MacDonald shared the news with his friend, then watched him disappear into the British barracks. A moment later, there was a roar of celebration from the barracks as the prisoner realized the war was over and their captivity was at an end.

Life in the camp was transformed. Men walked around singing and shouting, waving at the guards, even laughing at the dogs. When their captors finally heard the news three days later, they left the camp with the gates unlocked. The next day, the Brits and Americans walked out free men. Yet they had been truly set free three days earlier when Macdonald had shared the news with his fellows.' (Italic portion with minor additions, from "1001 Quotes, Illustrations, and Stories etc., E.K. Rowell, Editor, Baker Books, 2008")

**We do an internal audit,
or review of our lives
and honestly ask ourselves:
are we prepared?**

Advent has two faces: backwards and forwards. Backwards is the safer one because we can look into the past and get a sense of the Jewish people 2,000 years ago awaiting the Messiah; and of course, we celebrate this first coming of Jesus every Christmastide. I say, 'safer', because we do not have to do anything, just walk in expectation. However, Advent is also a time when we look forward to the Second Coming of Jesus.

With this in mind, we can celebrate the fact that our Saviour will indeed come before it actually happens. However, there is a requirement that we make ready for Him. We do an internal audit, or review of our lives and honestly ask ourselves: are we prepared? This advance knowledge is precious. We get an opportunity to make ready by prayer, service of our fellows, and moderate fasting. We check our lifestyle and see if they measure up to being that of true disciples of Jesus.

A quote from the old Advent hymn, "On Jordan's Bank", ("The Hymn Book", 1971, #391) is germane:

**"Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
Make straight the way for God within;
Prepare we in our hearts a home,
Where such a mighty guest may come."**

Regular Activities at St. Paul's:

- Sunday:** Holy Eucharist: 10 a.m.
Hand chimes Practice: 11:30 – 12: 30p.m.
Word to World Ministries Canada: 2 p.m.
Philippines Independent Church: 4 p.m.
- Monday:** Walking Group: 1 p.m. (see the St. Paul's website under events for locations)
St. Paul's Stringers rehearsal: 7:30 p.m.
Prayer Group — meetings held both in person and online:
1:30 p.m. (2nd Monday of the month **in-person**) & 7:30 p.m. (4th Mondays of the month **via Zoom**)
- Tuesday:** Girl Guides: 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Parish Council: 7:00 p.m. (2nd Tuesday of the month)
- Wednesday:** Morning Prayer: 9:30 a.m.
Bible Study: 10:30 a.m. (Studying Genesis)
Hunger for Healing: 11:30 a.m. (in the Chapel Room)
Prayer Shawl Ministry: 1 p.m. (1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month)
- Thursday:** TOPS (Taking off Pounds Sensibly): 6 p.m.
Choir Practice: 7:30 p.m. (If you'd like to join Choir, please contact Paul Bourgeois).
- Friday:** Hand chimes Practice 10 –11 a.m.
S.P.Y. Group: 6:30 p.m. 1st Friday of the month. (Check website.)
Coffee House: 7 p.m. second Friday on alternate months. **Next date is Jan. 9**
- Saturday:** Ladies Luncheon: 11:20 a.m. — **Changed from 2nd to 4th Saturday of the month starting January 2026. Next date is Jan. 24.**
Men's Breakfast: 8:30 a.m. —3rd Saturdays (We meet at St. Peter's some months. Check the church website to confirm location.) **Next date is Jan. 17 at St. Paul's (No Men's Breakfast in December).**

Welcome newcomers

This is a list the names of anyone who has officially joined the parish recently by completing one of forms in the pews that asks if you would like to make St. Paul's your Parish Home. These are the names added since the last publication of Living Waters.

If there are any errors or omissions, please contact Chizoba at office@stpaulscalgary.ca

- Godson & Treasure Echefu, Stephen.
- Brayan Avenas.
- Deb Park, Alice, Stan & Sandra Vicic.



COLOURFUL CELEBRATION!

Thanksgiving Sunday was wonderfully colourful and joyous. The festive ceremonial African attire worn by some ladies in the congregation was spectacular. These ladies posed for a group shot after the service. For more photos of our Thanksgiving celebration, see Page 12.

ROSTER FOR SUNDAYS

DATE	OBSERVATION	PRESIDING	PREACHING	ASSISTING	SPECIAL THEMES
Dec. 7	2 nd Sunday in Advent	Tony	Tony	Betty	Birthdays and Anniversaries
Dec. 14	3 rd Sunday in Advent	Sean	Sean	Betty	
Dec. 21 - 10 a.m.	4 th Sunday in Advent	Tony	Tony	Betty	Lessons & Carols + Pageant
Dec. 21 - 4 p.m.	Lessons & Carols @ the Midnapore chapel	Betty	Betty		King's College Lessons & Carols
Dec. 24 - 6 p.m.	Christmas Eve	Sean	Sean	Betty	15 minutes of carols pre-service Candlelight Silent Night
Dec. 24 - 10 p.m.	Christmas Eve	Tony	Tony	Betty	15 minutes of carols pre-service Candlelight Silent Night
Dec. 25 - 10 a.m.	Nativity of the Lord	Tony	Tony	Betty	
Dec. 28	1 st Sunday after Christmas	Tony	Tony	Betty	12 Days of Christmas song
Jan. 4	2 nd Sunday after Christmas	Tony	Tony	Betty	Birthdays & Anniversaries
Jan. 11	Baptism of the Lord	Sean	Sean	Betty	
Jan. 18	2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	Tony	Tony	Betty	
Jan. 25	3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	Tony	Tony	Betty	AMP after service



UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome Everyone! Please join us after the service for coffee & goodies. If you are new to St. Paul's, please ask for a welcome package.

Church calendars: The 2026 Canadian Church Calendars are available for \$7 each on a table in the Parish Hall near the nametags.

Candy Cane Soap Fundraiser: St. Paul's is selling all-natural Candy Cane Soap as a fundraiser just in time for Christmas. It's gentle, moisturizing, nourishing and eco-friendly. You can buy 6 Candy Cane Soap Boxes for \$25 – so you pay for 5 and **get 1 FREE**. For each bundle, \$9 goes to St. Paul's General Fund. **You can order until Dec. 7. Delivery will be on Dec. 14.** To order, send an e-transfer to gift@stpaulscalgary.ca with **SOAP** in the Comments. For more information, see **Ingrid**.

Blue Christmas: A service on Saturday, **Dec. 6 at 2 p.m.** includes a time of sharing and support and a service of anointing & healing.

Alpha Prayer Vigil: Volunteers are needed to pray during Alpha Wednesday evenings until **Dec. 10**. See signup sheet in the Parish Hall.

African Christmas Dinner SOLD OUT: Tickets for our Christmas Dinner, on Saturday, **Dec. 13** at 6 p.m. have already **sold out**. If you don't have a ticket, you are welcome to join us at 7:15 p.m. for carol singing and a talent show. If you would like to perform a carol, see Laura Anne.

Ladies Christmas Party: A potluck supper and exchange of Made-in-Canada gifts will be featured. Please sign-up in the Church Hall by the Mitten Basket or email Julie by **Dec. 12**.

Coffee House: The next St. Paul's Stringers Coffee House will be **Jan. 9** at 7 p.m. Come enjoy our own house band, open mic and snacks. This is family friendly. All welcome!

Men's Breakfast: The next date is on Saturday, **Jan. 17** at St. Paul's at 8:30 a.m. All men 13+ are invited to join great food and fellowship!

Living Waters: The deadline for the February/March issue of *Living Waters* is Wednesday, **Jan. 21**. Please submit material to office@stpaulscalgary.ca



Ladies' Luncheon – now 4th Saturday: Ingrid Bolton, our Incumbent's Warden and Treasurer will be sharing God's plan for her life at Ladies' Lunch, on Saturday, **Jan. 24** starting at 11:20 a.m. **Please note the date change to fourth Saturday of the month moving forward.**

Coffee Time Chart: The 2026 Coffee Time Chart is available in the Parish Hall. Please consider volunteering for this vital part of our Parish family life. Training is available.

Rider's Ministry: This ministry helps seniors and others attend our Sunday Eucharist by providing transportation to and from church. Please see the signup sheets in the hall: one for those who need a ride and one for those who can volunteer to drive occasionally.

Bulletin: Deadline for announcements or bulletin items is Tuesday of each week. Please submit by email to the parish office.

Clothing donations: Please put clothing donations in the designated bins in the parking lot -- not by the freezer.

Altar Guild needs new members: Help is needed preparing for services by setting up and cleaning up the communion vessels, flowers, candles, linens. etc. Training is available. Contact Barb Leinweber or the Parish Office if you can help.

Walking Group: Walking group starts at 1 p.m. Join us for a walk through one of our local parks. There is a schedule of locations on the St. Paul's website under events. We do not walk if the temperature is -15C or lower.





Banner team rose to the occasion

By **BILL HART**

It began as a simple comment one Sunday after service.

Calgary Bishop Barry Curtis, filling in as incumbent while the parish searched for a new priest, was chatting with parishioner Liz Sutherland, looking at the narrow column of drywall that stretched to the highest point of the church directly behind the altar. "He said to me, 'I have an idea for you,'" Liz says, recalling the day in 2001. " 'You see that blank space? We need some colour there, and I think you're the person to talk to about that.' "

Liz worked as a costume cutter for the Calgary theatre scene, taking a designer's sketch for a character and creating a custom-fit pattern for the costume and the actor. She'd created banners before, but nothing on this scale: just shy of six feet wide and 26 feet tall.

"I looked at the space and thought, 'That's a lot,' she says with a smile, "but I thought about it, prayed on it, and came up with a proposal for vestry."

Psalms 46 came to mind, and the references to God being our refuge and strength; mountains shaking; streams making glad the city of God; and the glorious holy tabernacles of the most high struck a chord with her. "That turned into the concept of earth at the bottom, water, flames, air, and the glory of God above," she remembers.

With the basic idea in mind, "I just started drawing," Liz says. "It did take a while to coalesce the elements."

Planning and gathering the elements

The concept, design and proposal came together, and the vestry was asked to agree and to cover the cost of materials. Once approved, the next while was filled with creating the detailed plan, and shopping/scrounging for fabric. "Then I had to find the right fabrics – it's challenging to get the colours right." Multiple trips to fabric stores were

supplemented by finding scraps at work that would never find a home in a theatre costume. And with the banner of this size, Liz started with a cotton canvas backing to ensure the piece wouldn't wrinkle or stretch out of shape. More

"...earth at the bottom, water, flames, air and the glory of God above."



A quarter-century later, the colourful banner at the front of St. Paul's still brings the space to life. Above right, Jo Gehr (back) and Joan Lord hold the nearly finished banner. At left, overlapping fabric pieces disguise where the three section are joined.

than 32 colours of fabric, as well as ribbons and net, went into fashioning the design.

The banner – built as appliqué, not a quilt – comprises three distinct eight-foot, eight inch by five foot, 10 inch sections. The multi-shaped pieces of fabric that create the design are stitched on to each backing section, and fabric segments that overlap each section disguise where the three pieces are joined. The actual "construction" was a true team effort: Liz used an overhead projector transparency to draw the design on to each segment, then cut the fabric

pieces to fit. The assembly team – parishioners Cari Hart, Joan Lord, Jo Gehr and Liz's friend and work colleague Michelle Latta –

would then satin-stitch each piece into place, giving them a finished edge.

The construction came together in a week - one that Liz had no theatre work - with a great team of volunteers.

The hardest part, Liz remembers, was making sure all the pieces lay smoothly against the backing, especially where they overlapped between two segments. "That actually went pretty well," she says. The bottom segment, which had the most intricate design, definitely was the most challenging ("Fabric pieces don't always co-operate"), so they crafted it first, then worked their way up. "We had time for some chit-chatting while working but sometimes we had to really focus on the trickier parts."

Planning, preparing, fabric shopping and assembling the 35-pound banner took about 65 person-hours.

Hoisting the banner

Then came the fun part – hanging it in place. Liz's husband Colin (a Telus lineman) and his ladder were recruited to attach a length of 2x8 lumber to the top of the wall, then secure the banner to it. "We all held the banner and fed it to Colin," Liz says, "and at that time there was a decorative screen above and behind the altar that helped support the banner as Colin attached it."

"The most rewarding part of the project was hanging it," she says, "and working with the team of women who were so excited to tackle the project." It remains the largest single project Liz has crafted: the next-closest is the Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come costumes she created for one of Theatre Calgary's productions of *A Christmas Carol*.

"The actor was on drywall stilts, so he was 10 feet tall, and hockey shoulder pads supported a large headpiece that topped off the costume," she says. "It took a lot of black waxed linen!"

Was she pleased with how the banner turned out? "Yes – it was a great collaborative effort." Are there any glitches or things she would do differently today, more than two decades later?

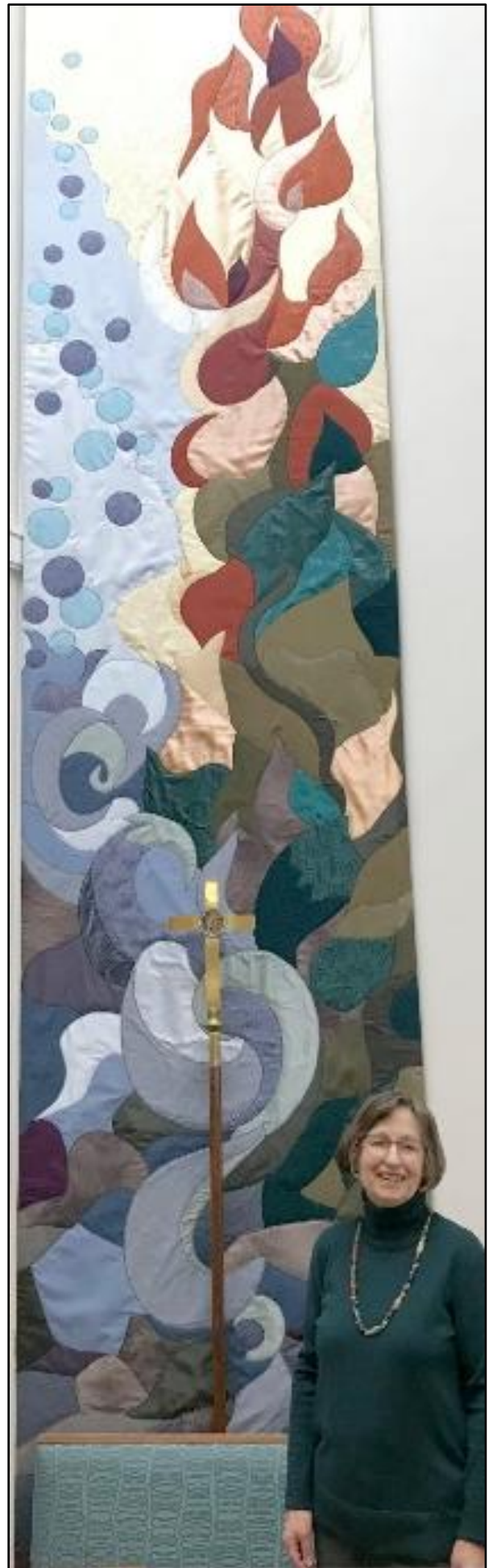
Liz smiles. "There is one little thing I don't like," she admits ... then chuckles.

"But I won't tell you what it is."



At right, Liz Sutherland recalls seeing the space and thinking, "That's a lot."

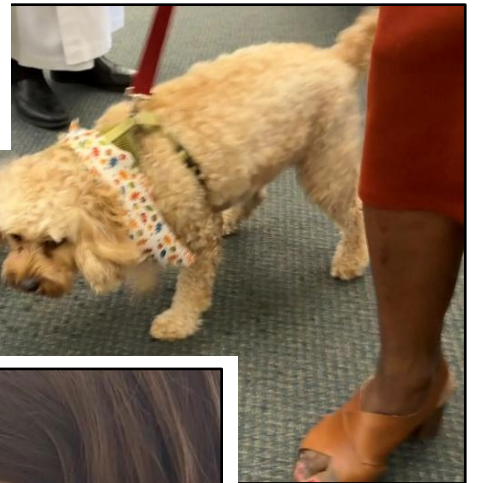
Above, Liz's husband, Colin, uses his lineman skills to hang the art. At bottom, the original sketches show how a decorative screen, since removed, created challenges.



Blessing of the pets

There were cats, dogs, and even a Bearded Dragon and a carton of eggs to represent beloved chickens at the annual Blessing of the Pets in October. Tony and Betty also blessed photos of pets that were unable to attend.





**... so
cute!**



Creatures both large and small got sprinkled with holy water by Rev. Tony and Deacon Betty at the Blessing of the Pets in October. The annual celebration recognizes the importance of pets in the lives of our parish family members.





JOIN S.P.Y. FOR OUR 2ND ANNUAL

WINTER *Celebration*

POTLUCK DINNER - MUSIC - HOLIDAY GAMES
KARAOKE - PHOTO BOOTH - FELLOWSHIP

DECEMBER 12TH, 2025
6:00PM - 9:00PM

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

YOUTH AGES 10-18 YEARS

Let's celebrate together!



Ladies

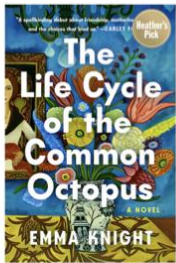
CHRISTMAS PARTY



Tuesday, December 16th at 6:00 pm

St. Paul's Anglican Church

Local Craft Fairs



Canadian Christmas Exchange

Please bring a wrapped **"Made in Canada"** gift for the exchange, \$25 limit. (Gift exchange optional)

Potluck Dinner

Refreshments Provided

The Secret Friend reveal and gift exchange will take place at the party!

Please sign-up in the Church Hall by the Mitten Basket or email Julie

by Dec. 12 - jthompsonwilson@shaw.ca

What is the Secret Friend Ministry?

- ♥ St. Paul's Secret Friend Ministry is open to all women of our parish. It is designed to bring the women of our parish closer together through the blessings of a "Secret Friend."
- ♥ A secret friend will take time to try and get to know their new secret friend. They will lift them up in prayer and bless them with regular correspondence and perhaps a small gift for special occasions, all secretly, of course.
- ♥ The reveal and choosing of a new Secret Friend will take place at our annual Ladies Christmas Party on **Tuesday, December 16th**. All the women of our parish are invited and you do not have to be a Secret Friend to attend. If you would like to join us please **RSVP to Julie by Friday, December 12th**.
- ♥ We look forward to another wonderful year of Secret Blessings!
- ♥ For more information and to receive a Secret Friend Questionnaire form please contact Julie Wilson at 403 630-1533 or by email at jthompsonwilson@shaw.ca



*Thanksgiving
jubilation!*





Music, dancing, offerings of Thanksgiving and a blending of cultures all came together in a joyful celebration!





Blue Christmas Reflection & Service

This is a time for those who find themselves processing grief and loss amidst the presumably “merry” Christmas season.

Join us on Saturday, December 6 at 2:00 p.m.

There will be a time of reflection, sharing, and support, then close with a simple service of anointing and healing. All are welcome.

Christmas Services

**Dec. 21 - Nine Lessons & Carols & Children's Pageant:
10 a.m. at St. Paul's**

**Dec. 21 - King's College Lessons & Carols: 4 p.m.
at Historical Chapel in Midnapore**

**Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve service 6 p.m. Hand chimes,
and then 15 minutes of carolling prior to service**

**Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve service 10 p.m. Carolling
15 minutes prior to service**

Dec. 25 – Nativity of the Lord - 10 a.m.

Dec. 28 – Sunday service with 12 Days of Christmas song.

St. Paul's African Christmas Dinner Saturday, Dec. 13 @ 6 p.m.

Tickets for our Christmas Dinner,
on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 6 p.m.

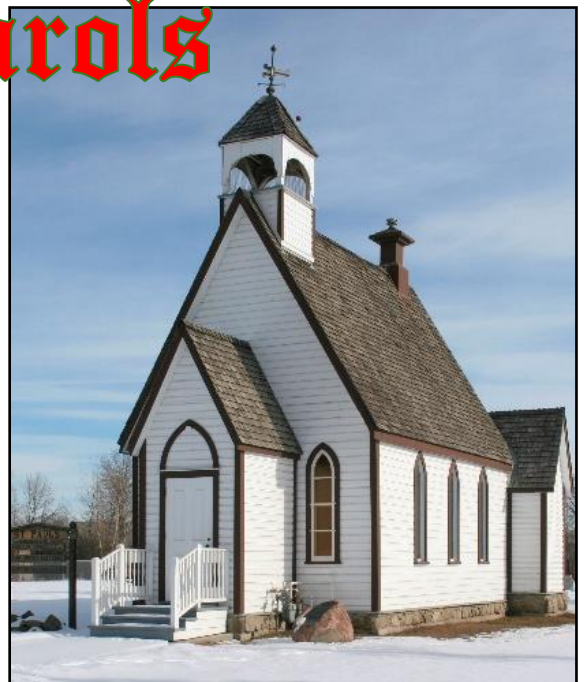
have already **sold out**.

If you don't have a ticket, you
are welcome to join us at 7:15
p.m. for carol singing and a
talent show. If you would like
to perform a carol, see Laura
Anne.



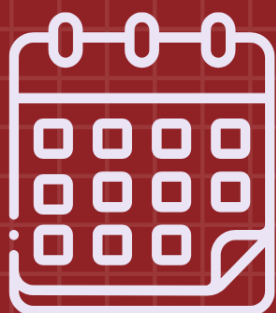
King's College Service of Lessons & Carols

At 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21
at our Historic Chapel



St. Paul's Anglican Church

⚡ ANNUAL MEETING ⚡ OF PARISHIONERS (AMP)



DATE:
JANUARY
25, 2026



TIME:
FOLLOWING
THE 10 A.M.
SERVICE



Lunch will be served before the meeting.
If you are in charge of any ministry or group ,
please submit your report for the AMP to the
church office, preferably by email, on or before
Wednesday Jan. 7, 2026.



Prayers

Collected and shared by Dinah



"Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at his disposition and listening to his voice in the depth of our hearts."
- Mother Teresa

SAFE IN THE HANDS OF GOD

Psalms 31:5 says, *"my times are in your hands"* or you could say *"my life is in your hands."* The next time you pray, go ahead and present your requests to him, with thanksgiving – but don't miss the transcending experience of just resting safe in the hands of God.

- Go Light Our World-Faith: Living with Purpose and Passion

A PERSONAL LITURGY

Lord, in your great mercy, turn to me, when I don't have words to pray. In your great mercy, turn to me, when I'm too discouraged to go on. In your great mercy, turn to me, even when I don't turn to you. In your great mercy, turn to me, when I'm in need, my saviour. In your great mercy, turn to me, when it's time to start anew. In your great mercy, turn to me, when I crave your presence. In your great mercy, turn to me, so that I may see your glory. In Jesus' Name. AMEN.

- Let Us Pray

MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT

Make me an instrument of your Grace and Mercy. Make me an instrument of your Peace. Where there is hatred, strife and injustice, make me be Light – a servant of your Word. Set me apart and make me completely dependent upon you. I can do nothing good apart from you, so I pray that you will fill me with your Spirit and direct me in righteousness that I may love what you want me to do always. AMEN.

-adapted from a prayer from C.S. Lewis Institute

MAY WE BE FILLED WITH YOUR PEACE

Lord, when people around us are rushing, help us move peacefully through the day. When anger and division lay siege to our conversations, help us speak gentle, healing words. When headlines increase the panic in others, hearts, let us remain calm and be moved to compassion. When we're tempted to ignore people on the margins, help us not to forget anyone. When our personal circumstances leave us anxious, help us breathe and turn to you. May we be filled with your Peace and may it change the world. In Jesus' Name we pray. AMEN

- Let Us Pray

A PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

Lord of grace and gentleness, we pray for this world in which ordinary humanity fails so often. We pray for those called to leadership at every level of government. Guided by you, may they serve their peoples, searching continually for policies and strategies which will be for the good of all, especially for the weakest and the most vulnerable. We ask this for the sake of him who is both servant and Lord, Jesus Christ. AMEN

-Christopher Avon Lamb, Adapted

A PRAYER FOR OUR SPIRITUAL LEADERS

Holy God, we come before you, asking that you equip our spiritual leaders with the spiritual gifts they need to fulfil their calling. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon them,

empowering them with wisdom, knowledge and discernment. Protect, encourage and strengthen them in their ministry. In Jesus' Name we pray. AMEN

A PRAYER FOR ALL WHO ARE ILL

Think, O God, of those who are ill, whom we now commend to Your compassionate regard. Comfort them upon their sickbeds and ease their suffering. We beg for deliverance and submit that no healing is too hard if it be Your will. We therefore pray that You bless those for whom we pray with your loving care, renew their strength, and heal what ails them. In Your loving name. AMEN

- Jesuit.org

PRAYERS WHEN ONE SUFFERS FROM ILLNESS

Restore my strength Holy Spirit, drive away from me all forms of sickness and disease. Restore strength to my body and joy to my spirit, so that in my renewed health, I may bless and serve you, now and forevermore. AMEN

- Jesuit.org

RENEW MY MIND, BODY AND SOUL

O Holy One I come before you today in need of your healing hand. In you all things are possible. Hold my heart within yours, and renew my mind, body and soul. I am lost, but I come to you with grace. You gave us life, and you also give us the gift of infinite joy. Give me the strength to move forward on the path you've laid out for me. Guide me towards better health and give me the wisdom to identify those you've placed around me to help me get better. AMEN

-Jesuit.org

A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE

"Lord, you are the God of strength, hope and comfort. This is a sure promise, and I pray that those who grieve would find solace in this truth. Please help them to be strong and courageous during this time of sorrow knowing that You are with them. I pray for each one to look to You for help. Lend them Your strength as they lean on You for support and comfort during this very difficult time. I pray for rest and refreshment for their tired and weary souls, as only You can give them the rest they need. I humbly ask that You renew each one's strength as they place their hope in you. Blessed be God forever." AMEN.

- Milano

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, our God of hope, we come to You today, each in our different seasons of life. Lord, we admit that sometimes our minds are full of hopeless thoughts. We get so discouraged, Lord, that we lose sight of all we have to be grateful for. So today, Lord, we call out to you, in thankfulness and praise. AMEN

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. AMEN.

Heavenly Father, I come before You today with a heart full of gratitude and joy for the prayers You have answered. Thank You for Your unfailing love, wisdom, and faithfulness in hearing my cries and responding with grace. Thank You for the blessings, healing, and breakthroughs You have provided, and for Your continued presence that brings comfort and strength to my life. I praise You for Your power, miracles, and abundant grace, knowing Your promises are true and Your wisdom surpasses all understanding. As I reflect on Your goodness, I am reminded of Your mercy and compassion, and I thank You for guiding me and never forsaking me. Help me to use these answers to grow closer to You, to serve others in love, and to live a life that honors You. In Jesus name. AMEN - New Springs

SEASONAL PRAYERS: ADVENT

Come, Lord Jesus. Come into our hearts. Our heavenly Father, as once again we prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet and thought and prayer, that we may reflect on the wonder of your love and allow the story of the Saviour's birth to penetrate our hearts and minds. So may our joy be deeper, our worship more real, and our lives worthier of all that you have done for us through the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN - Frank Colquhoun

"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him; My soul looks for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning."

Psalm 130:5-6

"Therefore, the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

"Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Luke 21:28

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. -2Corinthians 4:6

Come, Lord Jesus. Come into our hearts. AMEN

CHRISTMAS EVE

"Glory to God in the highest! And on earth peace, good will towards all." Luke 2:14

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

Blessed be God who in his love stooped to redeem mankind. Blessed be the king who made himself poor to enrich the needy. Blessed be the Holy Child who was born of the Virgin Mary. Blessed be the eternal Word who was made flesh for us. Blessed be Jesus, our Saviour and Lord, now and for evermore. AMEN

CHRISTMAS EVE MIDNIGHT

***"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'"* Luke 2:10-11**

O God, who made this most hallowed night resplendent with the glory of the true Light; grant that we who have known the mysteries of that Light on earth, may enter into the fullness of his joys in heaven. AMEN.

- Ancient Western Rite



CHRISTMAS MORNING

Jesus, Son of God, now that we have heard the angels sing, may we not lose our sense of the joy of heaven; now that we have been with the shepherds to Bethlehem, make us witnesses of the wonder of the love we have seen. Fill us with the quiet joy of Mary, so that we, too, may keep all these things and ponder them in our hearts. AMEN

- Angela Ashwin

God who became as we are, may we become as you are.

AMEN.

- after William Blake

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May the humility of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the joy of the angels, and the peace of the Christ-child be God's gift to us and to people everywhere this Christmas time. And may the blessing of the Christ-child be upon us always. AMEN.

-The Promise of His Glory

OTHER SEASONAL PRAYERS

World Aids Day- December 1st

Lord Jesus, you reached out to touch the leper and the outcast; reach out in love to those with HIV and AIDS, and those who love them. Give courage to their doctors, nurses, family and friends, so that their touch may be a channel for your healing and strengthening grace. Lord Jesus, you were brought to the cross by hostility and prejudice: open our eyes to the challenge of HIV and AIDS. Make us ready to learn before we speak; may our words dispel hatred and build up compassion; and may we serve your spirit of truth and your kingdom of goodness. AMEN

- Newcastle Churches' Aids Awareness

St. Nicholas. December 6

Eternal God, in your great love you gave to your servant Nicholas a perpetual name for deeds of kindness on land and sea. Grant that your Church may never cease to work for the happiness of children, the safety of sailors, the relief of the poor and the help of those who are tossed by tempests of doubt or grief; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN -Collect from "For All the Saints"

St. Stephen the Martyr December 26

Fill us, O God, with your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth and Charity, so that like St. Stephen, the first martyr, we may contend earnestly and fearlessly for the faith of the gospel and pray with hearts of love for those that ill-use us.

AMEN (adapted)

St. John the Evangelist December 27

Almighty God, you have revealed to us the mystery of the Word made flesh through the Apostle John. Keep us steadfast in the faith that the Son of God has come; that believing in him we may have life through his name. AMEN.

(adapted)

Holy Innocents December 28

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matt. 5:10

We remember today, O God, the slaughter of the holy innocents of Bethlehem by King Herod. Receive, we pray, into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims; and by your great might frustrate all evil designs, and establish your rule of justice, love and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

(adapted)

NEW YEAR

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" Says the Lord. (Isaiah 43:19).

Let this New Year be the beginning of a new life In each of us wherein "old things are passed away". Let all blessed old things stay but let the clutter of our heads and hearts be removed, that new inspirations and new affections may come in and enter our lives. AMEN -Chester Burge Emerson

For all the possibilities ahead in this new year, make us thankful, O Lord. Give us wisdom, courage and discernment in the face of so much chaos, despair and fear. Help us to see how, in our circumstances, we can contribute towards peace, faith and love. And give us the will to translate our desires into actions. AMEN -Brother John Charles, SSF

The Naming of Jesus January 1

"God spoke of old by the prophets; but in these last days, he has spoken to us by a Son." Hebrews 1: 1-2 BAS p. 277

We praise you, heavenly Father, that you gave your incarnate Son the name of Jesus, for it is the name of our salvation. May it be to us, and to all your people, the name that is above every name, the name to be honoured, trusted and adored, now and forever more. AMEN.
- Frank Colquhoun

The Epiphany of The Lord January 6

"Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage'." - Matthew 2:2

Jesus, we offer you the gold of our desire to love, even though our hearts are often cold. We offer you the incense of our longing to pray, although our spirits can be lukewarm. We offer you the myrrh of our frustrations and troubles, even when self-pity and bitterness creep in. Receive and make good our gifts out of your great love for us, and grant that we, like the wise men, may find some kneeling space at Bethlehem. AMEN. -Angela Ashwin

The Baptism of the Lord January 12

"And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'" Matt. 3:17

Almighty God, who proclaimed Jesus to be your beloved Son when the Holy Spirit came down on him at his baptism in the Jordan, grant that we who have been baptized in his name may rejoice in being your children and servants of all., through Christ our Lord. AMEN. -A Christian's Prayer Book

Heavenly Father, who sent the Holy Spirit on your Son at his baptism to anoint him for the service of your human family, send your spirit now to us who have been made your children by adoption and grace, that we may follow in his steps and work for the coming of his kingdom, to the glory of his name. AMEN. -adapted

As We Begin the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18

We pray, O Lord, for the Church, which is one in the greatness of your love, but divided by the littleness of our own. May we be less occupied with the things that divide us, and more with those we hold in common, and the love that enfolds us all. AMEN. -USPG" Network" Winter/78

The Confession of St. Peter January 18

"Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah the Son of the living God.'" - Matt. 16:16

God of grace, your church is built on Peter's faith; Grant that we, like him, forgiven and restored, may overcome our weaknesses and serve you without wavering, now and forever. AMEN.

- A New Zealand Prayer Book

The Conversion of St. Paul January 25 *"God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it."* *Acts 2:32*

Convert us, Jesus the persecuted, as you converted Paul and sent him as apostle to the world. May our love, our prayers, our suffering carry your gospel at whatever cost to all who wait to hear it. AMEN.
-A New Zealand Prayer Book

Prayers For Our Annual Meeting of Parishioners (a period of silence is needed after the following prayer)

Go deep, Lord, to the point beneath our thinking, discussing and planning, so that, in the stillness beneath all words we may open our hearts to you, and be soaked in your love, from which all wisdom springs. Go deep, Lord, as we remain quiet before you, and offer our gathering to you. AMEN.
- Angela Ashwin

Almighty God, we come together in the service of your Church to remember with thanksgiving all that you have been able to do through us in this parish during the past year, and to seek your guidance in all decisions that will be made on this day. We pray that this may be something much more than just a business meeting, but rather an occasion when we receive fresh encouragement in our work, catch a wider vision of your purpose and rededicate ourselves to your service. We ask this in the name of him who came to this world not to be served but to serve, and gave his life as a ransom for many, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

-Michael Botting

St. Paul's Parish Prayer

Our God of infinite grace, we give you thanks and praise for calling our congregation into being, and then continuing in loving relationship with us, in great faithfulness over the years, to bless, transform, and guide. At St. Paul's, you have given us a mission that will never change with time, to live out your love as revealed in Jesus Christ. It is your will that, with your help, we shall discover your Presence in Word and Sacrament; deepen our sense of Christian community; share your Word; nurture your people; encourage congregational and personal growth on our shared journey; act on your call for peace and justice; and build the foundation for tomorrow's Church. Help us to respond to your love by dedicating ourselves with joy as a Parish family to this mission. Pour out your Spirit upon us and work mightily in our midst to bring about its accomplishment. Fulfill your vision of opening hearts and minds to your grace, in us, and through us, now and for evermore. This we ask for the glory and, in the Name, of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

A BLESSING

God be with you in your going out and your coming in. God be with you in your work and leisure. God be with you in life's hills and in its valleys. God be with you in company and in solitude. God be with you in all your pilgrimage and at its end. And the blessing of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit abide with you always. AMEN.
-Stanley Pritchard

Stewardship of Giving



Giving as a priority

How can I give to serve to support His work and workers?

Strategic & Systematic Giving

2 Cor 9a:7b *"Each one of us must give as he has decided in the heart."*

This means giving should be deliberate, thoughtful, a conscious act, planned and done regularly.

Spontaneous Giving

2 Cor 9:7 *"God loves a cheerful giver."*

Respond to a spontaneous need over and above the regular giving.

Proportional Giving

Luke 16:10 *"One who is faithful in very little is also faithful in much."*

Everyone should be active in giving – even those who feel they have very little to give.

PRIORITY AT ST PAUL'S

1. Our priority is to support the operational costs of our congregation. First the regular monthly costs and then the planned maintenance of our buildings and helping ministries to grow.
2. Next is Outreach, to our own members in need and to organizations in our city.

Ways to give at St Paul's

1. By e-transfer – this is a direct deposit (*preferred option*)

- Use the St. Paul's Anglican church donation email - **gift@stpaulscalgary.ca**
- Midnapore Church of England Society (MCES) email **mcestreasurer@stpaulscalgary.ca**
- **CONSIDERATION:** E-transfers can be setup to be automated monthly within your own bank account

2. By Cheque

- Mailed to 7 Sunmills Green SE, Calgary, AB
- Collection on Sunday
- Delivery at the office
- **CONSIDERATION:** as the post office is on strike more often, consider bringing a cheque to the office or using e-transfer

3. Cash – in an envelope

- At the office
- In the collection on Sunday
- **CONSIDERATION:** place cash in an envelope with your name and email address if you would like a "Tax receipt"

4. Pre-authorised Donation – Diocese of Calgary

- a. A form is required to be filled out and sent to the Diocese for a monthly withdrawal from your bank account
- b. An increase or decrease in your commitment requires a form to be filled.
- c. **CONSIDERATION:** may be easier to use the e-transfer option instead.

5. Canada Helps - you can donate online using the Canada Helps website and searching for St Paul's Anglican Church Calgary at www.canadahelps.org

b. CONSIDERATION: Canada Helps takes 5% of your donation as an administration fee, so it may be better to change your giving to a monthly e-transfer.

6. Tithely Giving - coming soon to our website.

Tax Receipt for donations

1. Please ensure your **name, address and email address** are given to the office and updated when changed – name and address is required for the Tax receipt and email address for the receipt to be emailed.
2. Tax receipts will be issued every year in January for the previous year by the Envelope Secretary **envsecretary@stpaulscalgary.ca**
3. Envelopes with an assigned number are ordered on a yearly basis by the envelope secretary or a number is assigned to save envelope costs
4. If donations are made via e-transfer or Canada Helps, envelopes or an envelope number is not required.
5. Envelope Number for members who have one, if you require envelopes, please email **envsecretary@stpaulscalgary.ca**
6. If a donation is for a specific Fund or Outreach organization, please clearly state this on the donation - otherwise all donations go to the General Fund for the running and maintenance of the church. (Examples of directed donations include Flowers, Capital Improvement Fund, POP, SPY, Sunday School, Cancer Care Bags, Memorial, Stringers etc.)

St. Paul's Anglican Church

Income Statement January 1, 2025 to October 31, 2025

	2025	2024	Budget
Income			
Interest Income	7,879	3,277	1,670
Offerings	197,019	169,656	219,470
Other Income	17,689	4,799	14,730
Total Income	222,587	177,732	235,870
Gross Profit	222,587	177,732	235,870
Expense			
Administration	56,099	30,970	50,510
Apportionment	20,990	22,010	20,990
Christian Education	3,001	3,038	4,340
General Maintenance	31,894	27,629	30,080
Hospitality/Fellowship	1,951	836	2,780
Insurance	4,833	5,439	5,830
Ministerial	84,154	63,620	83,330
Outreach	19,020	16,965	19,020
Pastoral Care	43	9	80
Utilities	12,017	9,382	10,580
Worship	8,302	12,095	8,330
Total Expense	242,304	191,993	235,870
Net Income (Loss)	-19,717	-14,261	0

Our deficit at the end of October was \$19,717. Thank you to everyone for helping support our mission financially in these challenging times.

To make a donation, you can use envelopes provided by the Envelope Secretary.

To donate electronically, the preferred method is **by e-transfer. Please use the email gift@stpaulscalgary.ca**
No password is needed.

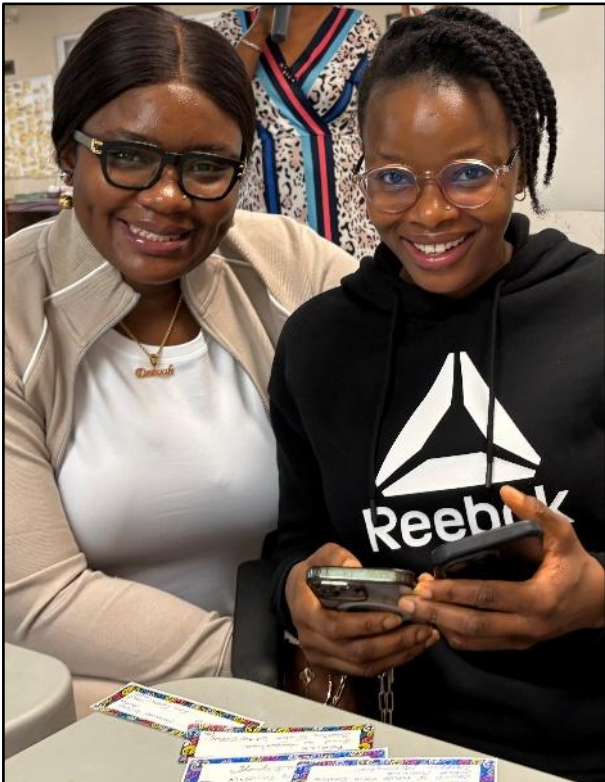
To help our Envelope Secretary, please include your envelope number in the message, or your name and address. You can also donate via our website (<https://www.stpaulscalgary.ca/donate>). This is completely secure, with the highest level of PCI compliance. You can also set up direct deposit. For the form, go to our website, type "Donation" in the search box, and click on "Pre Authorized Donations."





KARAOKE KRAZY!

You just had to be there to understand the fun at the Ladies Lunch in October. Special thanks to Chidinma and Chizoba, below, for making it happen. Great idea. Great job.





There were countless smiles, a whole lot of goofiness and some genuinely lovely moments as part of a truly note-worthy karaoke ladies lunch that was celebrated in October.



Men's Breakfast

All men age 13 and up are invited.
If possible, let us know if you plan to
attend so we know how many to expect.



**The next date for Men's Breakfast
is Jan. 17 at St. Paul's, 8:30 a.m.
There is no Men's Breakfast for the
month of December.**

St. Paul's
Stringers



COFFEE HOUSE



**FRIDAY
JAN. 9
AT
7 P.M.
OPEN
MIC!**



ALL WELCOME!





Blessed celebration



What a wonderful day!
 There were 12 young members of our St. Paul's congregation confirmed by Archbishop Gegg Kerr-Wilson on Sunday, Oct. 26. There was also an adult baptism. That's quite an undertaking! Congratulations to everyone who was honoured on such a special day for St. Paul's.



A joyful noise!

The St. Paul's hand chimes group, led by Annette Pingott, at left, performed prior to the Thanksgiving service on Oct. 12. Watch for the group performing again on Christmas Eve before the 6 p.m. service. Come early!



Sharing blessings for Thanksgiving



As part of our parish's ongoing tradition of giving, all the perishable food donated on Thanksgiving Sunday was given to the Veterans Association Food Bank. John L'Ecuyer kindly took care of the delivery after the Oct. 12 service, helping us share our gratitude and support with local veterans. A sincere thank you to everyone who contributed - your generosity continues to bring comfort and nourishment to those who served. Your kindness and generosity made a real difference this Thanksgiving!



THANK *you* Groups share appreciation

Dear Friends of Alongside Hope,
On behalf of the Board, staff and partners of Alongside Hope (formerly PWRDF), I would like to extend our thanks for your recent generous donation of \$1,020.55 from your church.



Alongside Hope

Anglicans and partners working for change
in Canada and around the world

Formerly The Primate's World Relief
and Development Fund (PWRDF)

Your gift supports our work with partners in preventive health, mother and child wellness, food security and nutrition, clean water and sanitation, Indigenous language and cultural reclamation, economic empowerment, and emergency humanitarian relief both here at home in Canada and in more than 30 countries around the world.

With blessings and gratitude,
Will Postma
Executive Director



Dear St. Paul's Anglican Church,

Thank you for the incredible gift of \$600.80, we received by cheque on 8-22-2025. Your donation brings us one step closer to a world where all people can succeed because their basic water and sanitation needs have been met.

Your investment has fueled something simple but powerful; thanks to the support of the outreach program at St. Paul's, we can now reach more communities to share knowledge about how to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene using affordable technologies.

Sincerely,
Marie Miles



Tell Out My Soul

Go Tell it on the Mountain: A Christmas Reflection

Mountaintops are amazing places. Certainly, they are remote and difficult to access, but once there, great things happen. Perhaps it is a moment to take in the wonder of Creation as one looks across great vistas. Maybe it is seeing how small the buildings and people down on the ground are and recognizing our humility and place in the world order. It might just be a feeling of achievement or arrival at having made it to the top. It is no wonder that so many important moments in the Bible take place on mountains.

They are a place of direct communication with God, access. They are a place of mystery and transfiguration. They are a place to receive instructions. They are a place to be tempted and to win. The thing in common with mountains is that no one is the same when they return. Something has changed. In the Christmas Carol Go Tell it on the Mountain, the singer tells us that the news of the birth of Jesus is so good that we must ascend the heights to shout it out. It is as if the song bursts forth from our souls, needing to be shared with a world in need. What could it be that is so important that it needs to be communicated so urgently?

I have many versions of this famous carol in my Christmas playlist, but it wasn't until I listened to Mahalia Jackson's slow, almost bluesy version, that I understood what the real message was. This is not about kingship or messiahship or miracles - the infant born in a manger came to do more than claim his spot of authority. He came to save us from oppression, to begin the change within us that transforms God's breath of love into an act of redemption in the world. That's the news that must be shared with a world full of longing. tens.org



Questions for Reflection:

What Christmas carol describes your understanding of the Good News?



Cn. J. Davey Gerhard serves as Executive Director of TENS: The Episcopal Network for Stewardship and reminds us that planned giving is the perfect way to ensure that an inheritance is not squandered.



THE EPISCOPAL
NETWORK FOR
STEWARDSHIP

LADIES' LUNCHEON

**LADIES' LUNCHEON IS NOW EVERY 4TH
SATURDAY OF THE MONTH**

**We invite ALL women of St. Paul's and your friends
to join in a time of fellowship**

Jan. 24, 2026 at 11: 20 a.m.



Jeremiah 29:11 ESV

**For I know the plans I have for you,
declares the Lord, plans for welfare and
not for evil, to give you a future and a
hope.**

**Ingrid Bolton our
Incumbent Warden and
Treasurer will be
sharing God's plan for
her life!**

**Please come prepared with
your own bag lunch and
beverage**

BRING A FRIEND | MEET A FRIEND | MAKE A FRIEND

LADIES' LUNCHEON PRAYER

Most gracious God, we thank you
for this gathering today. A time of
sharing:

Fellowship
Faith
Food

Thank you for the unique gifts and

perspectives you have given each of us
to share with our group. Holy Spirit, we
ask that you fill this room with your
presence and bless our time together,
that we may be nourished to respond to
the needs of others, with the love of
Jesus. Amen



God had a surprise for Brenda

By KATHLEEN ROBINSON

When God puts people together, differences don't matter says Brenda Hilling. And she should know.

Brenda shared her intriguing faith journey and how God's plan led to her marriage to the Rev'd Tony Hilling, at the November Ladies Lunch.

Her story started in Vulcan, Alberta.

"Yes, the Vulcan with the *Starship Enterprise*," she laughs. "My dad had a Captain Kirk shirt and Vulcan ears because he and my mom owned a ladies' clothing store in town.

"I grew up going to Sunday school in the United Church. I loved going because it was an opportunity to put my dress on, tights and shiny shoes. My favourite part was singing."

Brenda's brother, who was seven years older, started to rebel at age 12 and chose not to go to church anymore.

"When I got to about that same age ... I was seriously thinking about having a talk with my mom and dad and saying: 'I don't want to go to church anymore.'

"But that fall, we had a new Sunday school teacher. She brought her guitar, and she would take us outside. We would chat and sing. She was awesome, and I kept going." Brenda recalls pamphlets with testimony from teens about having a relationship with God and Jesus in their lives.

"I didn't really get that ... but I kept reading them and it was kind of fascinating. I had stacks and stacks of them. I was really intrigued thinking, 'What is this about asking

Jesus into your life? What does all that mean? I better not become religious,' " she laughs. " 'That would be weird!'

"I was quite an anxious kid. My mom's sister died very young from a brain tumour... only 37. I was only three or four, but I remembered her and I loved her. It put a fear in me, from a pretty young age, about my own mom dying.

Brenda's mom would go to hospital for migraines. "I was so scared something was going to happen to my mom."

Dracula was a problem. "I'd sneak into the TV room when my brother watched horror movies. I'd get freaked out. I'd be lying in bed afraid that a vampire would climb in my bedroom window. I'd put the covers over my head."

Searching for answers, she said a prayer to ask Jesus to come into her heart.

"I was just turning 13 at the time. What is amazing about God, is that God's timing is miraculous."

Around the same time, Brenda's sister became a Christian, along with two friends who invited them to a youth group at The Church of Christ. "So, we all came to know Jesus together. This youth group was fantastic. It became my life. Church became my life. I would read books about the Christian martyrs and missionaries, and I just ate them up."

She laughs again recalling high school friends who joked she should be voted "the most likely to become a spinster missionary. But that wasn't the path God had for me."

At 18, Brenda moved to Calgary. She was working, dating and going to church. "One night I was in my bedroom, and it was like hearing the voice of God for the first time. It wasn't audible, but I totally knew he had said something to me. It was kind of a shock what he said: 'I want you to break up with (her boyfriend). I don't want you to date. I will show you who to marry when it's time to get married.'

"I thought, well, this is God, so I better do what he says!"

But it was challenging because, as a young woman, her sense of identity and self-esteem were tied to dating.

She assumed God would reveal who she was to marry quickly. "But it was about eight years of waiting and not dating, and incurring the curiosity of family and friends

thinking I was a little bit crazy ... questioning 'Why are you doing this? God didn't really speak to you, did he?'

But she stuck with it, asking the Lord to give her grace.

Reassurance always came. "I really had to learn to trust God - not only that he would make things turn out, but that he would give me the strength to do it.

"One of the scriptures that really got me through that time was Psalm 37:3-6, which says: *Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will*

**"...he's a real Father
What-a-waste."**

do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.

"That was an important verse for me."

When she was about 25, Brenda attended a church in northwest Calgary and got to know the pastor and his wife, who were from Northern Ireland.

"Margaret became a good friend. One day she mentioned that she had a brother who was a Catholic priest. She showed me a picture and I said: 'Oh, he's a real *Father What-a-waste*, isn't he!' As in ... what a waste of a man being a Catholic priest. She thought that was hilarious, so that became our little nickname for him."

Tony was at a Catholic parish in Drumheller. Margaret and her sisters thought it was too solitary a life and wished he was married. "They prayed that God would make him do something else, because he had been a lawyer before."

"I didn't know at the time that ... he went to a junior seminary for Catholic boys when he was 12. He had a call to be a priest. He had this very serious faith from a young age, as did I, but in different places and contexts."

One year Margaret invited Tony to a Christmas Coffeehouse at the church. "He showed up with three nuns. They called themselves The Sister Act. They were hilarious." The nuns and Tony sang, and Brenda met him very briefly.

"But strange things started to happen. He'd show up in my dreams, just randomly. I had a dream I was playing the piano in his church. I just thought, that's silly. That's weird."

But the next Christmas, she hoped to chat to him again.

"I preened in front of that mirror that night," she said, drawing laughs by dramatically miming herself lavishly applying mascara. "I was also giving myself a hard time thinking: 'What is wrong with you? He's a Catholic priest! Don't be so stupid! ... but I wanted to look really good!'"

"I kind of watched him all night, trying to be sneaky about it. I didn't know he was watching me too and feeling way more guilty about it than I was! I felt this nudge that I had to speak to him before he left."

Despite a blizzard, she stalled departing by doing many chores. Eventually she saw him alone and started a conversation ... with Margaret making annoying teasing gestures in the background.

A few weeks later, a coworker confided she was dating a Baptist ... concluding that obviously that wasn't going to work. "I said, 'I have a crush on a Catholic priest.' She said: 'Oh, that's way worse!'"

Brenda agreed it wouldn't work, so tried to forget him. But that Easter Sunday - also her 27th birthday - she had "the biggest pity party you could ever imagine, questioning if God was going to come through with his promise after all the years of waiting. What I didn't know, was that very Sunday, Tony was telling his sister he thought he needed to

leave the priesthood. He told Margaret that he would talk to the bishop. He also said, 'Do you think Brenda would have a cup of coffee with me?'"

Margaret told Brenda giggling. "He phoned me up that very night," says Brenda. They met Monday night, which was his day off. They went to Red Lobster. "Sitting there, it was like we had known each other forever."

Brenda had questions for herself and God, including about the 17-year age gap. "But God kept reminding me of what I had prayed for - things that kept showing up in my dreams."

She also recalled advice from youth group to make a list of what she wanted in a husband and to pray for it. "Let me tell you about the list. I wanted someone who was deeply spiritual and loved the Lord. I wanted someone who played guitar and sang. I wanted someone with a Scottish accent."

In response to a burst of laughter from her audience, Brenda added: "Seriously, it was on the list. No word of a lie! ... and someone with a good sense of humour."

Reading this list, she just knew this was God's will.

"There was no way I could have dreamed this up myself."

They started dating, but later that summer, Tony struggled with leaving the priesthood. He made plans to visit a Catholic community in Maryland to think it through.

Brenda felt she had no choice but to release him, so he could do that.

She was heartbroken, and there were questions for God about broken promises.

Tony was gone three months. "It was awful. I was struggling with my health. I wasn't sleeping."

"It turned out God was working on him too. He was in church one night and he said, 'Lord, what about Brenda?'"

"He had his Bible open and he looked down and it was the

passage when Abraham was pretending Sarah was his sister.... It says, 'Why do you say she is your sister when she is your wife?' It happened to him again. So, he really felt the Lord was speaking to him about me."

"Around Christmas we got back together, and the rest is history. We got married that summer."

Initially Brenda supported Tony while he updated qualifications as a lawyer. And then God called them both to ministry. They pastored churches in Cochrane, then Red Deer for 10 years, and then back to Cochrane.

There were lots of ups and, of course, some downs with health, careers and raising children.

"But God has been faithful through all of that."

"Being from such different backgrounds and different countries, it didn't seem to matter. When God puts people together, even in friendship or fellowship ... all those things fall away if those relationships are from God."

Brenda concluded by reading from Jesus' sermon on the mount, reminding us to trust in God to provide - telling us to not worry about material needs or to fret about the future - but to seek God's kingdom first.

(To read about Angel Tree Ministry, see Page 32)



Brenda Hilling is prayed for before sharing her faith journey with Ladies Lunch in November.

Those who attended Ladies Lunch in November learned about Angel Tree Christmas from Brenda Hilling, a program that connects incarcerated people with their children.



Gifts bring hope & connection

Brenda Hilling didn't think she would be spending a lot of time in prison.

But her job with Prison Fellowship Canada (PFC) requires that, and she says it is an honour.

PFC works with the Christian community to help transform the lives of anyone affected by crime. Its mandate is to offer hope, purpose and positive change through the forgiveness-based teachings of Jesus.

One of PFC's program is Angel Tree Christmas, which connects church communities with the families of prisoners through the delivery of a Christmas gift, on behalf of the incarcerated parent. The inmates get to fill out a gift tag, so

By the next fall she was hired, initially part-time. Now she has been with the organization for eight years.

"I never thought I would be comfortable going into a prison and doing what I do. But one thing I have learned about life is that there are so many people out there who we just don't see. There are people who need help. There are people who need to know that they are loved and cared about. Especially, I think about the caregivers of kids. There are 357,000 kids in Canada with an incarcerated parent. That's a huge number of kids in any given year, and we touch the lives of just a fraction of them, but everything we do makes a difference.

"I've had conversations with these moms, and grannies and aunties who look after kids. Some of them just burst into tears saying: 'We thought everyone had forgotten us because nobody knows what we deal with. Thank you so much that you guys care.'

"It's so meaningful to me, this work," says Brenda. "And it touches my heart every day and it's a privilege to do the job that I do."

St. Paul's is once again working with PFC to support Angel Tree Christmas. If you sign up to be a sponsor for a family or a child, information will be provided about the child and an appropriate gift. Or, if you prefer, make a donation.

Donations will be pooled to sponsor children. You can donate through St. Paul's. Whether cash, cheque or e-transfer, please mark your donation as being for Angel Tree. Sponsorships sheets are on a table in the parish hall. Please direct questions to Brenda.

Donors and sponsors are also welcome to take an angel ornament from the tree in the parish hall.

"You can take that home and put it on your tree to remind you to pray for incarcerated people and pray for their families and pray for their kids," says Brenda, "because God is working in their lives."



the children get a gift under the tree, but it also helps maintains bonds with their incarcerated parent.

Brenda got involved when her husband, the Rev'd Tony Hilling, was working for PFC. He asked her to volunteer with administering the program.

"I would be sitting at the computer crying as I'm reading these applications that have come in, especially from the women ... from the moms, writing a gift tag to their children. They might say 'I love you so much and I think about you all of the time. I wish I was there.' All those kinds of things.

"That really impacted me. After that Christmas I said to Tony. Prison Fellowship needs to hire me."



Boxes of love

St. Paul's filled and donated 30 boxes and donated \$415 for Operation Christmas Child this year. The program, operated by Samaritan's Purse, demonstrates God's love in a tangible way by sharing gifts with children around the world. Thank you to all who participated and special thanks to Laure (in the back row in blue) who organized the parish effort.

Helping out veterans

Well done St. Paul's! We had two boxes from the Veterans Association Food Bank to fill by the end of November. But we filled both by the middle of November. So those were picked up and we got two more! Thanks for helping veterans.



Mitten madness

Our annual mitten basket has been a huge success this year with the basket filled repeatedly. One week the contributions overflowed to the top of the coat rack and Doreen, at right, was conscripted to help manage the overflow. To date more than 140 toques, scarves and mittens have been distributed to charities including Momentum Community Economic Development, Inn from the Cold, and Women in Need.



Making a world of difference



Alongside Hope

Donations to Alongside Hope can help change lives for the better. As Christmas approaches, we often start planning food treats. Meanwhile millions of people around the world face starvation. Alongside Hope works to combat famine and provide communities with food security.

You could help.

In Epiphany, we remember Jesus, Mary, and Joseph fleeing to Egypt as refugees.

Support for refugees forms a big part of Alongside Hope's work, and the need is growing. You could help here too.

You can donate through your church envelopes, cheques or e-transfers marked for Alongside Hope, or at alongsidehope.org

Also check out the World of Gifts guide in the latest issues of the Anglican Journal



So many blessings!

The Open to Blessings fundraiser enjoyed terrific support, raising more than \$5,000 toward replacing the hardware on the front doors in only four weeks. The new hardware was quickly installed, making it possible for the doors to open and lock reliably – and we also added disabled access. Folks had fun with the incentive of a pink or blue heart-shaped sticky note to add to the display board beside the doors.

The idea was simple, to use a sticky note to name a blessing that has come into your life as a result of walking through those doors to St. Paul's... and add it to the Wall of Blessings. The wall will come down by mid-December, so check it out soon!



December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1 p.m. Walking Group 1:30 p.m. Prayer Group in person 7:30 p.m. Stringers Rehearsal	2 6: 30 - 8 p.m. Girl Guides	3 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Hunger for Healing 1 p.m. Prayer Shawl 7 – 8: 30 p.m. Alpha Course	4 6 - 7:30 p.m. TOPS	5 10 a.m. Hand chimes Practice Christmas Party	6 2 p.m. Blue Christmas Service
7 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Hand chimes Practice 2 p.m. Word to World Ministry 4 p.m. Philippines Church	8 1 p.m. Walking Group 7:30 p.m. Stringers Rehearsal	9 6: 30 - 8 p.m. Girl Guides 7 p.m. Parish Council	10 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Hunger for Healing 7 – 8: 30 p.m. Alpha Course	11 6 - 7:30 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	12 10 a.m. Hand chimes Practice 6 p.m. SPY Winter Celebration	13 6 p.m. St. Paul's Christmas Dinner
14 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 2:30 p.m. Eucharist at Father Lacombe Care Centre 2 p.m. Word to World Ministry 4 p.m. Philippines Church	15 1 p.m. Walking Group 7:30 p.m. Stringers Rehearsal	16 6 p.m. Ladies Christmas Party	17 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Hunger for Healing 1 p.m. Prayer Shawl	18 6 - 7:30 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	19 10 a.m. Hand chimes Practice	20 4 – 10 p.m. Philippines Church
21 10 a.m. Lessons & Carols & Christmas Pageant 11:30 a.m. Hand chimes Practice 4 p.m. Lessons & Carols at the Historic Chapel 2 p.m. Word to World Ministry 4 p.m. Philippines Church	22 1 p.m. Walking Group 7:30 p.m. Stringers Rehearsal	23 6: 30 - 8 p.m. Girl Guides	24 6 p.m. & 10 p.m. Christmas Eve Service 2 - 4 p.m. Philippines Church	25 10 a.m. Christmas Day Service 4 - 7 p.m. Philippines Church	26	27
28 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 2 p.m. Word to World Ministry 4 p.m. Philippines Church	29 1 p.m. Walking Group 7:30 p.m. Stringers Rehearsal	30 6: 30 - 8 p.m. Girl Guides	31 4 – 7 p.m. Philippines Church	Holy Eucharist is in person and also lived streamed on our website https://www.stpaulscalgary.ca/		

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Holy Eucharist is in person and also lived streamed on our website https://www.stpaulscalgary.ca/				1 6 - 7:30 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	2 10 a.m. Hand chimes Practice 6:30 p.m. SPY	3
4 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Handchimes Practice 2 p.m. Word to World Ministries 4 p.m. Philippines Church	5 1 p.m. Walking Group 7:30 p.m. Stringers Rehearsal	6 6: 30 - 8 p.m. Girl Guides AMP Report Submission Deadline	7 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer 10:30a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Hunger for Healing 1 p.m. Prayer Shawl	8 6 - 7:30 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	9 10 a.m. Hand chimes Practice 7 p.m. Coffee House	10
11 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Handchimes Practice 2 p.m. Word to World Ministry 4 p.m. Philippines Church	12 9 a.m. Walking Group 1:30 p.m. Prayer Group in person 7:30 p.m. Stringers Rehearsal	13 6: 30 - 8 p.m. Girl Guides 7 p.m. Parish Council	14 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Hunger for Healing	15 6 - 7:30 p.m. TOPS 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	16 10 a.m. Hand chimes Practice	17 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ St. Paul's
18 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Handchimes Practice 2 p.m. Word to World Ministry 4 p.m. Philippines Church	19 9 a.m. Walking Group 7:30 p.m. Stringers Rehearsal	20 6: 30 - 8 p.m. Girl Guides	21 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Hunger for Healing 1 p.m. Prayer Shawl	22 6 - 7:30 p.m. TOPS 1 p.m. 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	23 10 a.m. Hand chimes Practice	24 11:20 a.m. Ladies' Luncheon
25 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist * Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP) 2 p.m. Word to World Ministry 4 p.m. Philippines Church	26 9 a.m. Walking Group 7:30 p.m. Stringers Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Prayer Group via Zoom	27 6: 30 - 8 p.m. Girl Guides	28 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Hunger for Healing	29 6 - 7:30 p.m. TOPS 1 p.m. 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	30 10 a.m. Handchimes Practice	31