

INCUMBENT'S 2019 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

You are the God who works wonders. (Psalm 77:14a)

It's my great joy to share this, my thirteenth Annual Meeting Report with you, filled with gratitude to our God, who indeed works wonders in our midst!

Looking Back on 2019:

I'd like to begin by looking back on the wonderful year we've just shared together, using the 4 categories of Worship, Discipleship, Fellowship, and Outreach.

Worship:

As always, our worship in 2019 was enriched by a team of people engaged in a multitude of ministries. In our *AMP Reports*, these take up pages 25-28 to cover! I want to thank everyone mentioned in these Reports for how you helped make worship at St. Paul's so special! I want to offer special thanks to our Clergy team, Cyril, Norman, and Bob, whose impact on our worship is indicated by the number of times you feature in my Statistical Report. I'd like to offer special thanks to Robbie Collier, who had just begun as Altar Guild Coordinator when I wrote last year's Report, for serving so well, and organising such an outstanding Altar Guild Team. Thank you, Margaret Anne Knowles, for continuing to craft together such special monthly Celtic Services. Thank you, Laura Anne Fink, for taking the lead as St. Paul's hosted the ecumenical World Day of Prayer Service. Thank you, Pamela Fleming, for stepping forward to coordinate our Nursery Ministry, ensuring that children and parents alike experience as enjoyable a time of Sunday morning worship as possible. Thank you, Amara and ChiChi Chigbo, for writing our Christmas Pageant this year, and to all our Sunday School for performing it! For the first time since I've been here, we put on the Pageant in place of the sermon at our 10 a.m. Sunday Service, and I feel it made it that much more special to have it nested in worship. Another change in 2019 that we'll want to continue in 2020 is having the children leading a song at Children's Time on Triple C Services that they've been learning throughout the month. The "Jesus Hokey Pokey" at today's Service is an awesome example of this! And, we'll want to continue in 2020 the Blessing of Back Packs for all students, from children to adults, which we had for the first time ever in the fall of 2019.

Discipleship:

We had some outstanding developments in discipleship in 2019. It all began with our children. Gloria Ford took on the ministry of Sunday School Coordinator in November 2018, and ever since, her energy, enthusiasm, and vision for our young people have been a great blessing to our Parish! Shannon Colle's joining Gloria in 2019 increased the blessing still further! Please be sure to read Gloria's Sunday School Report (*AMP Reports*, pages 24-25) to see all that took place. I have 2 additions to make: at the end of the year, the Sunday School area underwent a transformation, with a layout that works much better, including unblocking the windows to let the physical light in, just as the spiritual light has been streaming. And, as of this month, Julie Wilson can also be added to the list of Teachers. All Saints' Sunday saw the Confirmation of 7 of our young people. Abuoma, Aisling, Alastaire, Amara, ChiChi, Kai, and Zemen, what a joy it was to share this discipleship milestone with you! Our adults finished up the last 2 Studies of the 8 Study Pilgrim Series in the first part of the year. Then in the fall, we began one of the best things we've done to deepen our discipleship in my time here, the Alpha Film Series. The 30 participants in this Film Series, which includes both Parishioners and non-Parishioners, have found the experience tremendously rewarding. The food has been awesome; the films are outstanding; and the small group times have created bonds that continue to grow ever deeper. I want to thank especially Ingrid Bolton, Gloria Ford, Heather Johnson, and Laura O'Neill for your commitment to be such great Hosts/Helpers for us! Our Advent Study, "Faithful," with Adam Hamilton was also excellent, prompting me to order another Adam Hamilton Study, "The Walk," for Lent 2020. Our discipleship in 2019 was shown by our sharing of our time, talents, and treasure. To remind us of this, we watched videos by Archbishop Douglas Hambidge, from Thanksgiving through to the end of the year. This past year was a great one for people venturing out in faith to share their gifts. One such person was Karen Huq. Karen, thank you for your stellar leadership as our new Treasurer! On the financial front, it was awesome to see what an incredible response we had in December, via online donations, and our Sunday and Christmas offerings, almost erasing the large deficit we'd been carrying for most of the year! It was also awesome to see the exemplary care Gerald de Vries and others provided for

our building, including installing new furnaces. Thank you, Kerry Peters, for helping guide our stewardship, including leading by example by your care of our community garden. Thank you, everyone, for giving so faithfully of your time, talents, and treasure to support the ministries to which God has called us. To help people learn about the ministries in which a person can serve at St. Paul's, we began to have monthly Ministry Sundays focussing on a handful of ministries at a time, rather than 1 or 2 Sundays a year focussing on them all. Two highlights for me were the changing signs the Sidespeople wore to showcase the different things they do, and the slideshow put together by Julie Wilson about Secret Friends. Underpinning all that's occurred is prayer. Thank you to our Prayer Group and Prayer Chain ministries for continuing, day by day, to lift up our Parish to the Lord. Time and again this past year, I've been struck by how things just "fell into place", with the right person coming forward for the right task at the right time. I'm convinced that prayer had a huge amount to do with it! Last, I want to thank the Lord, and everyone for your prayerful support, for my improving health in 2019. My feet and legs have healed to the point where I'm now on virtually no pain meds at all, something I hardly dared even hope this time last year! The specialist and the nurses who treated my wounds are all equally amazed at the improvement. Thanks be to God!

Fellowship:

Fellowship refers to all the ways we build up one another. It can be sharing laughter at fun activities like our Talent Shows, or sharing tears with each other when we're grieving. It's going through all of life – the good times and the tough times – together. Again, our *AMP Reports* give a sense of the wide range of fellowship activities that took place at St. Paul's in 2019 – for example those by Angela Richardson (Hospitality), Linda Hubert (Casserole Ministry), and Nicola Peden (Pastoral Care Team). One aspect of Pastoral Care that I was able once again to offer was financial assistance from the Inreach Fund, established to provide confidential financial assistance for members of our Parish in need of a few dollars up to several hundred. My heart rejoiced at being able to help, while it grieved also at the difficult circumstances so many of us are facing. All our fellowship events in 2019, whether they were the Alzheimer Workshop or our Christmas Dinner, were worthwhile and well-attended. Angela is stepping down as Hospitality liaison on Parish Council. Thank you, Angela, for your 5 years of faithful service in this ministry! It was wonderful in 2019 to have many new members with whom to share fellowship. Julie Wilson's New Members Report lists 11 new households, totalling 29 people! Thank you, Julie, for the lovely special touches you provide to help our new members feel welcome! Our Youth Group met monthly until the summer, culminating in a visit to Calaway Park. Joanne Wrigley then stepped down from her role as co-leader, due to her move to the north of Calgary. Thank you, Joanne, for your long and faithful service over the course of many years, to enrich Youth Ministry in our Parish. At the end of the year, we began the process of reigniting the Shepherding Ministry. I'll talk more about this under the "2020" heading. I want to thank Father Cyril for coordinating this ministry for so many years. You were instrumental in getting Shepherding started, and in maintaining it literally for decades! As I said in my Shepherding Report, we all owe you a great debt of gratitude. I also want to thank Robbie Collier for offering invaluable help for two months, as you and I worked through the Parish List and identified potential helpers. Part of our care for each other is helping everyone "stay in the loop," to celebrate and participate in all that's occurring. We were helped greatly in this endeavour in 2019 by Kathleen Robinson's coming alongside Laura Anne to help reformat *Living Waters*, and by her becoming the unofficial photographer of our various events (a huge improvement over me and my feeble efforts).

Outreach:

When I think of outreach at St. Paul's in 2019, I think first of all of the work that went into reflecting together for the first time ever on our Missional Footprint. Parish Council made this the focus of our 2019 Council Focus Day, and then Kathleen Robinson took the ball and ran with it. As Kathleen's Missional Footprint Report (*AMP Reports*, p. 30) shares, she put together a Survey that was emailed out on May 30, receiving 68 responses. She published the responses in a 3 page Report that was published in the September issue of *Living Waters*. Kathleen then continued, in communication with Parish Council, to work on putting together a final Report in 3 parts for the Diocese. This was emailed to the Diocesan Executive Officer, Pilar Gateman, on December 17. I highly doubt that as thorough and well-thought out a Missional Footprint Report has been given by any other Parish in the Diocese! Thank you, Kathleen, for all your incredible work on this! And thank you for your outstanding work as Parish Council Outreach liaison, including your tremendous Annual Meeting Report (*AMP Reports*, pages 20-22)! Anyone who reads the Missional Report in *Living Waters* and Kathleen's Annual Meeting Report will have to be struck by the incredible amount of outreach that takes place through St. Paul's! I can add to this that from my Discretionary Fund tithe of our Outreach Tithe, I was able to offer assistance to non-Parishioners in need on 90 occasions. We also reached out through our community connections. Our Yard

Sale, Stampede and End of Summer BBQs, Remembrance Day Evening at Sundance-on-the-Green, and Christmas Dinner were all attended by our neighbours. In 2019, we replaced our St. Nicholas' Day Tea with a Christmas Market, which saw an influx of visitors from the wider community. Thank you, Steve Colle, and everyone who helped make this so successful! We also continued to connect with our community online via our new website and social media platforms. Thank you, Paul Bourgeois and Laura Anne, for all your work to make our website winsome and wonderfully informative. (Incidentally, if you haven't looked at *Living Waters* online, you really ought to do so!) In 2019, we also connected with our community via Historical Tours of our Historic Chapel. Thank you, Neil Brown and Jake Robinson, for these! We continued our connection with the community via South of Fish Creek Interfaith, through our contacts Rick Collier, Heather Johnson (for the first part of the year), Murray Sykes, and Bob Mummery. Last, Jennifer Solem's NeST Report shows how in 2019 we continued contact with the Al Jbawi family, deepening our bonds of love with this dear family.

What an awesome year 2019 was of our God's working wonders! And we have the same wonder-working God with us as we move forward into 2020, so we anticipate awesome things to continue to take place!

Looking Ahead to 2020:

Worship:

We plan to develop our Triple C Services (which we're now calling "Christ-centred Creative Celebrations") to involve our youth and their parents in a deeper way than we have up till now. At our 10 a.m. Services on the 4th Sundays of each month, we'd like to have a family choose from the different ministries that help the Service occur (Greeters, Sidespeople, Soundboard, Music Ministry, Servers, Readers, Leaders of the Prayers of the People, and Sacramental Assistants) those in which they'd like to serve. Our other youth will be offered the opportunity to serve in the ministries that aren't chosen. We'll also look to involve our youth in helping present the message of the day (e.g., Earth Day in April) in a creative way. And we'll end the Services with a "bang", inviting our children to accompany the final hymn with "joyful noisemakers"! Another possibility for 2020 is what's commonly called "Messy Church." This hands-on Service would occur in the Hall on a Saturday afternoon, followed by supper. If we can get together a team to work on this, we may be able to start by offering it once a quarter. In the churches that have offered it, it's proven to be an excellent way to connect with young families. This year also promises to be one in which we continue to develop ecumenical worship experiences. Just last week, we hosted our brothers and sisters from All Saints Lutheran Church at a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service. On Ash Wednesday, we'll be continuing our practice of going to All Saints for supper and then an evening Service. Once again, I'll have the privilege of preaching. And in the fall, Pastor Wallace and I plan to include other clergy in planning for the 2021 Week of Prayer Service.

Discipleship:

We've already had an excellent start to discipleship in 2020, with our January 8 Tourette Syndrome Workshop, led by Steve Colle, and the resumption of our Alpha Film Series on January 15. After Alpha, our adults have the opportunity to share "The Walk" Lenten Study, which I've mentioned already. In the fall, we'll offer Alpha again, either in someone's home or here at St. Paul's. Speaking of home groups, our first home group is set to begin when Alpha ends on February 5, as one of our Alpha small groups has decided they'd like to continue meeting together. One of the most exciting discipleship developments this year is our putting on the Alpha Youth Series for our Junior High- and High School-age youth. As the trailer we watched at today's 10 a.m. Service shows, this Series promises to be as great as the Film Series has been for adults. Thank you, Keith Daye and Kai Bolton, for acting as Hosts/Helpers for our Junior High and High School aged youth, respectively. Thank you, also, Gloria Ford, for your help in getting this organised. There will be 13 sessions, all on Sunday mornings, usually on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, starting February 16. Another possible discipleship opportunity is to make use of our Screens for a return to Movie Nights, possibly in conjunction with Coffee Houses (see below). Also, look for an ongoing year-long focus on stewardship in all its "3T" components (time, talents, and treasure).

Fellowship:

A big focus for me in 2020 will be developing our Caring Contact Ministry (formerly called Shepherding). To reiterate what I said in my Shepherding Report: "Carers will be asked to keep in contact with around ten households once a month, via email, phone, or in-person conversations, and to share any pastoral concerns

(e.g., if someone has lost their job, or is having surgery) with me. The purpose is to help everyone feel cared for and loved as part of our Parish family. We don't want anyone to 'fall through the cracks,' and feel that no one knows or cares. If you'd like to be a Carer in the Caring Contact Ministry, please let me know." Another new initiative in 2020 has been put forward by Paul Bourgeois. Paul is suggesting that we try the idea of Coffee Houses, where we can enjoy times of fellowship as we share the gift of music. We'll look to have the first of these by the spring. Also in the spring, look for the installation of benches in loving memory of dear members of our Parish who've gone to be with the Lord. As Julie Wilson mentions in her New Members Report, in 2020, we're going to welcome new members a little differently, in smaller groups 3 times a year, instead of one big group in June. The first of these will take place at the end of the 10 a.m. Service on February 9. Our new Hospitality liaison on Parish Council will also undoubtedly have lots of ideas for our fellowship activities.

Outreach:

In the Missional Footprint form we received from the Diocese for 2019, we were asked to complete the following sentence to help us better impact our world: "Two things we plan to do, or redo, next year that will continue the work of Jesus in our community/area are ..." We answered, "1. Continue Alpha course, including adding youth version (mentioned above). 2. Expand community engagement outside the walls of St. Paul's by actively seeking opportunities to help community organizations - specifically partnering with South of Fish Creek Interfaith." So far this year, there are 2 South of Fish Creek Interfaith activities in which we can engage: the annual spring clothing giveaway at All Saints Lutheran, and clean-up of an invasive weed in Fish Creek Park. Please watch for details as we get closer to these dates. Another activity with the potential to increase our community visibility is the offering of Historical Tours of our Chapel to schools. Jake Robinson is looking into this possibility. Last, because of the generosity of people donating specifically to the Inreach Fund, I'll have sufficient resources to respond to the needs of our congregation, without receiving a portion of our Outreach Tithe for Inreach. So for 2020, we're returning to the 90% and 10% Outreach Tithe split between our Outreach Fund and my Discretionary Outreach, freeing up more funds for the support of group responses to need at the local, national, and international levels.

What an awesome year 2020 promises to be of God's continuing to work wonders in our midst!

Thank you to all those named in this Report. Special thanks to our Wardens, Rick Collier and Murray Sykes, whom we are so blessed to have had serving in these ministries. Rick will be stepping down as People's Warden after today's Meeting. Murray will continue on for 1 more year, while our new Deputy Incumbent's Warden learns the ropes. Thank you, Cyril, Norman, and Bob, for all you do, and your companionship as brothers in the Lord. Thank you, Laura Anne Fink, for continuing to be invaluable to us all! Thank you, Robbie Collier (Parish Clerk), Angela Richardson (Hospitality), and Kathleen Robinson (Outreach) for your service on Parish Council. Thank you to those who've come forward to serve as People's Warden, Deputy Incumbent's Warden, and Parish Clerk and Hospitality and Outreach liaisons on Parish Council, whom we'll identify later on today. Thank you, Dan Brisbin, for your continuing on as Treasurer for the beginning of 2019, easing Karen's transition, and for your ongoing service as the Treasurer for MCES. Thank you to all those named in the Annual Meeting Reports: those who stepped down from a ministry in 2019, those who began, and those who continued on in their serving. Thank you to EVERYONE who participates in the life of our Parish family! Together, let's keep growing closer to God and one another. To God be all the praise.

Let us pray:

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully hear our prayers, and grant to this Parish all things needful for its spiritual welfare. Strengthen and confirm the faithful; protect and guide the children; visit and relieve the sick; turn and soften the wicked; arouse the careless; recover the fallen; restore the penitent. Remove all hindrances to the advancement of thy truth; and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within the fold of thy holy Church, to the honour and glory of thy blessed Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP, pages 43-44)

With great gratitude to our wonder-working God, this Report is respectfully submitted by

Your Brother in Jesus



January 26, 2020