

August 2007

Dear Friends in Christ:

I greet you all in the Love and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. September is the time to begin all sorts of activities, and the Church begins its programs once again. There is an excitement at St. Paul's this September. We have been blessed with a terrific summer and I hope that everyone is refreshed and relaxed. This letter is to inform you of some of the upcoming events in the parish so you can put the dates on your calendars. It is hard to keep track of all the activities associated with the parish.

Sunday School classes begin on Sept. 9, at the 9:15 and 11:00 services. You can register for Sunday School any time before classes begin. I look forward to the presence of all the children and I am pleased that Nancy Habinski has agreed to take over the leadership of the Church School program. The youth groups (both the Haven and the Church Youth group) will begin in September. In addition Confirmation classes will begin on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. Both adults and teenagers (with their parents) are invited to this information morning. Come with your questions.

On Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> we will celebrate our third anniversary in our new facilities. I can hardly believe that it is three years of operations already. We are truly blessed at St. Paul's. The Stewardship representatives have asked to make the fall a time to focus our attention on the abundance of God's creation. We need to celebrate and focus our awareness that everything we have is a gift from God. This emphasis for the Fall will culminate on Nov. 25 (Feast of Christ the King) with a Parish Party at 10:00am on a Sunday Morning. Please reserve the date and more information will follow.

There will be an open house after each worship service on Sept. 30. At the open house people can ask questions and volunteer for a variety of ministries associated with our parish. Adult study programs will be available. I invite you all to reconnect and avail yourselves of the opportunities we offer our worshipping family.

As a family we need your participation and presence to be complete. If you have any questions please call me at the office 836-1001.

Peace, Love and Laughter,



Rev. John Bridges  
Rector, St. Paul's

August 24, 2007

Dear Friends,

Much to our collective annoyance, the hazy, lazy days of summer are drawing to a close, and it is time to begin reflection on the upcoming fall and winter season at St. Paul's.

Growth in our church continues to be a source of joy for us. Fifteen new families have become members of St. Paul's since January. We extend, on behalf of all our members, a very warm welcome to you all. We hope and trust that St. Paul's will be a church home where you will find and experience strong relationships and spiritual growth.

You will find, if you haven't already noticed, that much work has been done to improve the appearance of our church over the summer. Our floors have taken on a new shine thanks to the efforts of John Taylor, our custodian. Our gardening and landscaping teams have been successfully continuing their efforts to improve and beautify our outside appearance. The landscaping and gardening work will continue as a work in progress right through the fall. We will soon be in a position to declare any remaining stone from our old church building surplus and will initiating a final sale to dispose of it shortly.

As directed by Parish Council earlier this year, a professional sound consultant was engaged in June to address the acoustical problems in both our church and hall. Measurements have been taken and we expect the analysis and associated recommendations for sound improvement, both spoken word and music, to be reported in September.

Unfortunately, the church's lawnmower has packed it in and is beyond repair. Before buying another one, we are offering to adopt and offer a good home to a suitable used lawnmower should its current owner wish to donate it.

Our church finances continue to show year over year improvement. For the first 7 months of 2007, receiptable givings are up 3% over the equivalent period last year. (\$149,050 in 2007 vs. \$145,305 in 2006). We are meeting all our financial obligations at this point except for our principal (\$15,000 in arrears) and interest (\$14,150 in arrears) payments to the diocese for our mortgage. As you might expect, cash flow in our current circumstances is very tight, and expense management is an ever-present task.

You will recall that Vestry in February approved an overall budget increase of 17% 2007/2006. The 3% increase we are experiencing, while positive, obviously does not provide sufficient funds for all the areas of ministry that we would like to accomplish. For example, one of the very high priority items we had envisaged, and one that the recent Boken Strategic Planning Report from the diocese strongly supported, was the addition of professional staff to augment Fr. John's efforts. We had planned on spending \$10,000 this fall on a youth coordinator, and augmenting that amount in 2008 to \$25,000. This is no longer possible, and with Fr. John's workload increasing as we grow as a church, he is not able to commit to personally addressing this vital priority. Consequently, we will be dependent on volunteer capabilities to permit youth ministry to continue. While we value our volunteers and sincerely appreciate their commitment for most of our ministry delivery, experience both at St. Paul's and from beyond shows that this is not the ideal method to address the youth element.

Speaking of pastor workload, we believe it will become necessary over the next year or two for St. Paul's to acquire another full time associate priest if we wish to continue to grow and meet our mission to the community. Our Strategic Planning Team is attempting to lay a path for us to accomplish this goal consistent with all the other demands in meeting our obligations and fulfilling our mission. A survey of all ministry leaders is now underway to

solicit input. To those ministry leaders who have not yet responded, please do so quickly to either Don Pruner or the church office.

We are indeed fortunate at St. Paul's to have such an active community of volunteers to undertake ministry development and delivery. We have over 60 such ministries flourishing here at present, and we expect even more to be created as we continue to grow and tackle the direction provided through our mission. We encourage all members of St. Paul's to find a ministry that they can become involved in. We encourage you to take advantage of the open house at the end of September to find a ministry or two that matches your interests and abilities. Getting involved in your church is a good way to develop relationships with your fellow members and to provide challenge and reward in your spiritual growth. We always have need for volunteers. For example, the Communications Team has a current need for someone in the area of newsletter preparation and publishing. If you are interested in this, or in any specific ministry, please speak to a warden, to Lorna, our office administrator, or to Fr. John.

As wardens of St. Paul's, we welcome you back this September and invite you to take advantage of all that is offered in your church. This is a "happening place" because of you and for you.

Blessings,

*Francis*

Francis Christensen  
Peoples' Warden

*Russell*

Russell Smith  
Rector's Warden

*Steven*

Steven Shamess  
Deputy Peoples' Warden

*Ann*

Ann Bradley  
Deputy Rector's Warden

August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Dear Parents and Children of St. Paul's:

The summer has been a time for all of us to share times of relaxation, special family times and also opportunities to plan for the coming school year. At St. Paul's, we are excited to have more opportunities to share the Gospel and our Lord's redeeming grace with children through our Children's Church classes.

Our teachers have been meeting together to bring together new and exciting ways to teach your child/children the Gospel so that they will grow spiritually here at St. Paul's. A special "Welcome Back" celebration will take place at both the 9:15 and 11:00 services on September 9<sup>th</sup> as part of Commissioning Sunday for Children's Church teachers. Families are invited to come to church for this special service. After the commissioning, the children will go with their teachers to the main classroom and share in a special celebration. It will be a time of getting to know their teachers, each other, singing together and then sharing in some special treats and refreshments. This is our way of welcoming back the children and youth of our parish to a new and creative time of learning each Sunday morning about God, His Son and His message for all.

Children's Church will be following the curriculum "Seasons of the Spirit" and adding special group crafts, snack crafts and action songs throughout the year. There will also be a contest for the children to enter to give our Children's Church a special name that the children will be proud to claim as their own. Our "tweens" will also have a special curriculum designed to help them grow and develop their faith as they look toward confirmation and becoming full members of God's church.

New ideas and ways of imparting God's word to children and youth are awaiting your child starting this September. Register your child/children either via email at [admin@stpaulshk.org](mailto:admin@stpaulshk.org) or to myself at [len.nancy.habinski@sympatico.ca](mailto:len.nancy.habinski@sympatico.ca) on September 9<sup>th</sup> at our Commissioning Sunday Service.

We welcome you and your family to share in this year's time of worship, teaching and growth.

*Nancy*

Nancy Habinski  
Sunday School Co-Ordinator