



St. Paul's Anglican Church

See, I am about to do a new thing... Isaiah 43:1

St. Paul's Prepares to Celebrate 160 Years of Commitment to our Christian Community

A Little History: Did you know ...

We have been a worshipping part of the community since 1859! The first Anglican Church was built on Victoria Street, on the property today occupied by the Lawn Bowling Club, with its first service on February 24, 1861.

The current St. Paul's Anglican Church, built in 1887, and consecrated on October 7, 1891, replaced the original church, after it was destroyed in the Great Fire of Southampton on November 4, 1886.

The bell tower was erected in 1907. The bell is inscribed with the words "Calling All to Worship".

On July 7th the Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls, Bishop of Huron will be at St. Paul's to help celebrate our 160th anniversary. A fun-filled day is being planned. Please save this date on your calendars.

If you have any wedding, baptism, or gathering pictures, there will be a memory table set up that day.



Meet Our Foster Child!

For a number of years now one of the ACW's outreach projects has been to sponsor a child through Families for Children (FFC). Divya is the little girl that we started sponsoring in the spring of 2018. She was born on January 10, 2014, and brought to FFC in February 2015, after being left at a hospital in India. Support for a year is \$144.00. Divya is the third child that the ACW has sponsored.

Families for Children is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization that exists to fulfill the needs of children and young adults with physical and/or cognitive disabilities.

To learn more about Families for Children, their goals and the services provided, there are several newsletters posted on the big bulletin board in the hall.



A Time of Renovation and Renewal at St. Paul's:

It takes a special year for a special project! In celebration of our 160th anniversary, it seemed the perfect time for a facelift! Since January, Sunday services have taken place in Bevan Hall, while the church proper was renovated and restored. Many things have happened during this time. The pews and all of the interior furniture were stored in a moving van to the east of the church. The heating system was updated and balanced. The complete electrical system in the church was replaced, with installation of many new circuits, allowing for remote control of lighting—now completely LED. The plaster was repaired, and the church was painted from top to bottom. The wainscoting and floors have been sanded, stained, and protected with multiple coats of urethane. Several pews removed years ago will be replaced in the church, allowing for extra seating. More wheelchair access will be provided. The choir pews are being replaced with individual chairs, allowing the choir area to become a more versatile space. The carpet will be replaced in the next few days. We are hopeful that our first service back in the church will be on Palm Sunday, April 14.

A huge thank you is extended to Derrick and Ken from Upright Construction for a job well done! Thank you as well to the congregation for their understanding during this time. Thanks to Rev. Carrie for her easy-going response to the transformation. Thanks as well to the various groups that have had to share the space in Bevan Hall, and do things differently during this time, especially the Chancel Guild. Our new worship space will be well worth the short term inconvenience! Let's all plan to be present when the doors open again on April 14! See you then!



Southampton Community Suppers – Thirteen Years Later—Living Out Our Faith

In 2006, staggering statistics were published, indicating that several hundred thousand people visited food banks in Ontario every week. A soup and sandwich supper had been taking place in Port Elgin for a number of years at this point. However, those in need often have no transportation to get them to the hosting location. Anne and Doug Goar had both retired in 2006, and decided to do something to alleviate the nutritional need in Southampton. They took an idea of a community supper to St. Paul's, and Church Council agreed to support a pilot project. In January 2007, St. Paul's wrote letters to all other churches in Southampton, asking for interest and support in serving dinners. Five churches responded. Each church agreed to donate \$100 to the venture, on the understanding that more cash would be available as the need arose. Following an organizational meeting, an initial series of 5 suppers was held at St. Paul's Church in the Spring of 2007, proving that people were willing to come out for a community meal, to which the whole community was invited. The meals were provided with admission by donation, to help offset the cost of food. Support was overwhelming, with over 70 volunteers that first season!

The menu for the first 3 years consisted of soup, sandwiches and dessert. Then, it was upgraded to full meals, including chili, spaghetti, salmon loaf, ham and scalloped potatoes, turkey, pulled pork, etc. Initially, 15 suppers were served per year, between November and May; however, in 2009, the number was reduced to 12, because attendance dwindled as the warmer Spring weather approached.

That was history – we are now in our 13th season! Average attendance has risen from 25 in 2007 to 68 last

year, with as many as 102 people being served at a single supper. The volunteers have prepared, served, and cleaned up after 158 suppers. A rough estimate indicates

that over 7300 people have been served in that time period. It has been an honour to support the nutritional need in the community, but it was discovered that a social need was also being met – an opportunity for people living alone to get together with neighbours and friends for a simple meal and fellowship.

Approximately 55 volunteers assist each year on four teams, but there are 19 “charter volunteers” who have been with Community Suppers since its inception. Additional volunteers are ALWAYS needed – it takes a whole community to do this.

As mentioned above, \$500 was received from 5 churches in the first year, with the promise that they would donate more when the need arose. The most remarkable thing is that the generous donations from every supper, without exception, have paid the expenses of that meal, and it was never necessary to seek more financial support. To the contrary, since income has exceeded expenses, Southampton Community Suppers have been able to donate several thousand dollars to other needy organizations and events, including the Salvation Army Food Bank, Red Cross, Ride to Conquer Cancer, Horn of Africa Drought and Famine Relief, Saugeen Shores Refugee Fund, Saugeen Memorial Hospital Foundation, World Vision, and G.C. Huston Breakfast Club.

All of our gifts come from God, and we are happy to have been able to share from our abundance to help others. The benefits associated with this project over its 13 year history, include nutritional support, social support, and the ability for congregations to work together to serve. There is no in-

attention to end this mission to the community, as long as generosity and able bodies prevail. Continue to come to the banquet! God does provide!



Our Hard Working ACW!



The ACW works quietly within the church, but what tremendous work they do! Through a blustery January, the ACW members, with lots of help from others, spent hours creating the highly sought after marmalade, apple jelly, and other products, to be sold at the Annual Marmalade Tea and Bake Sale, on Saturday, May 4 from 10—noon. Don't miss it!

Help Us Reduce, ReUse and Recycle!

As Christians, we are called to "safeguard the integrity of creation". As part of our Mission and Ministry plan, St. Paul's intends to take a small step, by reducing and wherever possible eliminating one-time-use products, including plastic drinking glasses, plastic stir sticks, styrofoam cups and takeout containers, paper sugar packages, juice boxes, plastic table cloths, paper plates and plastic cutlery. The decision was also made by Vestry to initiate the use of a composter. Let us all work together to do our part!



Mark Your Calendars:

Plan to join your congregational family for any of the multiple events scheduled at St. Paul's!

Every Tuesday: Morning Prayer at 10, followed by coffee and bible study /reflection on the following Sunday's readings, seeking meaning for our lives.

Men's Breakfast: 3rd Sat. of the month at 8 AM

A.C.W. : 1st Tuesday of the month at 1:30 PM

Ecumenical Taize service: Monthly, rotating from church to church (March 31 at 7 PM at Port Elgin United, April 28 at 7 PM at Faith Lutheran)

Yoga exercises for Seniors (including chair yoga) -

every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 - 11 AM

See the weekly bulletin insert and monthly calendar for more details of life at St. Paul's.

See schedule of Holy Week services / events

A Lenten Study is taking place every Wednesday evening, beginning with a simple meal followed by discussion. Please join us!

Check out our Facebook page.

Website coming SOON!



St. Paul's Anglican Church, 248 High Street, Southampton, ON 519-797-2984

Ordinary people . . . Loved by God, Seeking Christ, Moved by the Holy Spirit.