

# ST PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## IVY'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

As I sit to write this, the race to Christmas is on. For the most part, our endurance has been maintained but now comes the final sprint to the finish line. In a few short days, the baby will have been born in the manger; the shepherds will have come and gone; the gift wrapping will be torn away from the boxes; turkey carcasses will be simmering in pots, soon to be recreated into bowls of winter worthy turkey soup; and we will finally have time to sit down, put our feet up and relax. The celebrations will be over, family and friends will return home and life as we know it will get back to normal (insert sound of screeching brakes).

After all the lead up to this holy season, this hope-filled birth, how can life possibly return to what it was before? The Prince of Peace has been born! The Word Made Flesh lives! How is it possible that this birth story changes nothing?! Perhaps it is that the story is too old, too familiar, to unbelievable. Or is it that we just can't imagine how it can have any real impact on us in today's world. Perhaps it is that we have not fully comprehended the enormity of the event and that it is so much more than a one-time, long ago phenomenon.

As we put away our Christmas decorations and begin another year, I invite you to ponder the words of the mystical poet St. John of the Cross (1542-1591) and reflect on how this holy season might inspire you to "offer shelter" and be a "midwife to God" in 2020.

Rev. *Ivy Thomas*

*"After all the lead up to this holy season, this hope-filled birth, how can life possibly return to what it was before? "*

January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020

### What's Inside:

- Ivy's New Year Message
- Anniversaries & Birthdays
- January Events
- Outreach
- Pastoral Care
- Giving in 2020

## IF YOU WANT

If

you want

the Virgin will come walking down the road

pregnant with the holy, and say,

"I need shelter for the night, please take me inside your heart,

my time is so close."

Then, under the roof of your soul, you will witness the sublime

intimacy, the divine, the Christ

taking birth,

forever,

as she grasps your hand for help, for each of us

is the midwife of God, each of us.

Yet there, under the dome of your being does creation

come into existence eternally, through your womb, dear pilgrim—

the sacred womb in your soul,

as God grasps our arms for help; for each of us is

His beloved servant

never far.

If you want, the Virgin will come walking

down the street pregnant with Light and sing ...

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Donna Chorney	1 <sup>st</sup>
Pauline Anstee	6 <sup>th</sup>
Duck Key Kim	7 <sup>th</sup>
Deidre Wilson	9 <sup>th</sup>
Rose Hoffman	12 <sup>th</sup>
Ross Gilley	17 <sup>th</sup>
Felicia Sardar	20 <sup>th</sup>
Gary Dickinson	24 <sup>th</sup>
Clinton Wood	26 <sup>th</sup>
Orison Wood	26 <sup>th</sup>
John Kemp	27 <sup>th</sup>
Mee Ja Kim	28 <sup>th</sup>
Julie Braaten	29 <sup>th</sup>
Jim Harnden	29 <sup>th</sup>



## JANUARY EVENTS

- **Movies & Musings Wednesdays**  
1-4pm Jan. 8 – Feb. 5

An opportunity to watch and discuss a movie together.

### January 8 -- I Am David

David, a twelve-year-old boy, escapes from a concentration camp in Bulgaria in order to go to Denmark to deliver a letter. But he ends up getting reunited with his lost mother.

### January 15 -- The Visitor

Walter Vale returns home from a trip to find Tarek and Zainab, two illegal immigrants, living in his apartment. They get along well till Tarek lands in trouble and risks being deported.

### January 22 -- Geisha

Chiyo Sakamoto, a nine-year-old girl, is sold by her underprivileged family to a geisha house. She becomes a victim of unpleasant circumstances, but her fate changes when she meets Mameha.

### January 29 -- The Secret Life of Bees

Lily, a lonely teenager, flees from her home and reaches a small town in South Carolina. Once there, she finds herself in the company of the Boatwright sisters who introduce her to a new world.

### February 5 -- Hotel Rwanda

Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel manager, leads a happy life with his wife and children in Rwanda. He displays immense courage by saving the lives of many helpless refugees during a communal war.

## TEA TIME WITH IVY

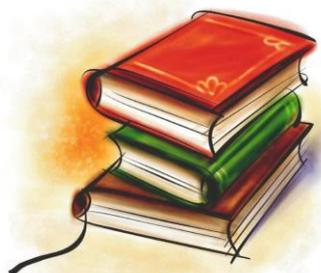


The last Friday of each month at St Paul's  
Beginning Jan. 31st from  
10-11 am  
Join Ivy for casual  
conversation  
& refreshments

Everyone welcome!

## LENTEN BOOK STUDY

Wednesdays February 26 – April 8 1-2pm



### **Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others by Barbara Brown Taylor**

"The renowned and beloved New York Times bestselling author of *An Altar in the World* and *Learning to Walk in the Dark* recounts her moving discoveries of finding the sacred in unexpected places while teaching the world's religions to undergraduates in rural Georgia, revealing how God delights in confounding our expectations....Throughout *Holy Envy*, Taylor weaves together stories from the classroom with reflections on how her own spiritual journey has been complicated and renewed by connecting with people of other traditions—even those whose truths are quite different from hers. The one constant in her odyssey is the sense that God is the one calling her to disown her version of God—a change that ultimately enriches her faith in other human beings and in God."

Please sign up in the office by Feb. 1 to purchase a book.

**The cost of the book is \$25.00, however, if this cost is going to prevent you from joining the study, please speak to Ivy. There are funds to cover such expenses.**

## OUTREACH

Hello St. Paul's

Your Outreach Committee has had a busy year. Our Willowbridge Team – Jayne Brooks, Ivy Thomas, Judy McAulay, Shirley Cole, Donna Fletcher, Rose Hoffman, Gloria and Ron Tuchsien and Linda Hutchinson – continue to serve bi-monthly meals to the residents. We cook for 40 for each meal. We plan our meals for the end of the month when typically funds are running low. The residents really appreciate our efforts.

During the year Outreach targets a number of different charities to receive contributions from the church's activities such as potluck lunches, concerts, etc. For 2020 your committee has decided to target the church's efforts towards the Journey Home initiative. Homelessness is such a complex issue and needs many resources to make a positive impact. We thought that anything St. Paul's can contribute would help the larger funding need. The congregation will have presentations about Journey Home in 2020 from people working on the initiative.

This year the United Churches in the area have come together to investigate projects that we can do under the "United Church" banner. The thought is "the more helping hands the better". Our first joint project is "The Longest Night" which is being held at First United on December 21st from 3:00pm to 4:00 pm. There will be future events that St. Paul's will be able to participate in.

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR FILLING PURSES AND BACKPACKS.**

The office is full! The 18 backpacks will go to two houses managed by the John Howard Society. The 16 purses and pajamas will go to the Women's Shelter.

*Merry Christmas and  
Happy 2020!*

## PASTORAL CARE

Greetings from the Pastoral Care Committee

The Pastoral Care Committee attempts to keep in touch with those who live in homes and Senior

Homes who are unable to attend Church or Church functions. We visit and telephone to keep in touch.



We take flowers at Easter and Poinsettias at Christmas to remind them that they are still part of St. Paul's Church. We need everyone's help to keep the Church updated.

We have just distributed 16 small poinsettias; and 8 large ones for members who have lost someone in their family this year; including 3 to our paid staff. Merry Christmas and thank you so much for those who helped.

We also visit members in hospital once a week.

We also hold Church services once a month, alternating between Three Links and Cottonwoods.

Thank you so much to Rose Hoffman for sending her lovely get well cards on behalf of the Church.

All the best as we try to care for each other.

*Joyce Philpott and Beryl Baldeo*

## GIVING IN 2020

### 2020 Offerings

From our Treasurer: Jayne Brooks

We thank you so much for your continued support and contributions in 2019. As we enter a new year, here are some reminders for you.

### Envelopes

For those who are still using envelopes, your 2020 envelopes should be available before the new year. However, as the office is closed between Christmas and New Years, if you do not have your box of 2020 envelopes before January 5th, please just make a note of your envelope number and write that or your name on a spare envelope with your offering for January 5th and all will be well. Or if you are paying by cheque we will be able to find your envelope number from your cheque information.

Please remember that envelopes are legal source documents for Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) purposes and must be kept by the church for 7 years. When submitting your weekly envelopes, you need to fill in the total amount you are giving and indicate what portion of that amount goes to what account (local church expenses, mission and service, etc.).

*“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly nor under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”  
2 Corinthians 9:7”*

In the absence of any clear indication of where the money is intended to go, all funds are directed to local church expenses which means the operation and work of St. Paul's United Church, Kelowna.

To assist the ushers during collection of the offering and the official counters of the offering, it also helps if you clearly indicate whether your contribution is cash or cheque.

If you are tired of having to fill out the information on your weekly envelopes and having to write cheques or scramble to find cash each Sunday, and would just prefer to make monthly payments, please see the section below on PAR payments.

### PAR – Pre-Authorized Remittance

Contributing by PAR is simple and easy. You complete a form from the office telling us how much you would like to contribute each month and to which fund (local church expenses, mission and service, etc.) and provide us with a voided cheque or an official statement from your bank re your bank account information. Then on the same day every month that amount automatically comes out of your account and you never have to worry about it again. And if the need arises in the future, you can stop your payments at any time with no questions asked.

### Other Means of Contributing

St. Paul's is registered with Canada Helps, which can accept donations on behalf of St. Paul's. If you wish to make a donation by credit card or to donate shares, Canada Helps can easily accommodate those transactions. Alternatively, electronic transfers of cash directly to St. Paul's can also be accommodated.

For further information on these options please contact the treasurer at [finance@stpaulskelowna.ca](mailto:finance@stpaulskelowna.ca).

### Final Thoughts

As we all know costs are continually rising for each of us and that is true for the church as well. Our operating costs are increasing annually and those costs have to be covered each year. Whether giving weekly, monthly or annually, when was the last time you increased

your contribution to St. Paul's? We realize that everyone's situation is unique and that only you can make the decision on what to give in support of the work and mission of St. Paul's. We simply request that you prayerfully consider your giving level for the coming year. Thank you.

*Jayne Brooks*

*"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly nor under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*

2 Corinthians 9:7

