

In This Newsletter

- *Ivy's February Message
- *Birthdays and Anniversaries
- *Lenten Book Study
- *SongShine Musical Therapy
- *Financials and Tax Receipt Info



St Paul's United

February 2020

You Are Welcome Here!

www.stpaulsunitedkelowna.com
Facebook/StPaulsUnitedKelowna
Instagram/StPaulsKelowna
Weekly Sunday Service: 10am

Visit us online for all of our current news and events at: www.stpaulsunitedkelowna.com

Rev. Ivy Thomas: Minister's February Message

I came across a true story this week about a single mother and her young daughter. They lived, for a time, in an inexpensive motel because it was all they could afford. When the mother lost her part-time job, they were desperate, and food was scarce. For many days, the little girl's hunger was satisfied with nothing more than dry, plain slices of bread.

One evening, when they were most desperate, they could smell the beautiful aromas of someone's pot roast dinner coming from a few doors down. With great humility the two walked down the motel sidewalk and knocked on the door. When a woman opened the door, the mother, with both fear and tears in her eyes, asked, if the woman might be able to spare a bit of their supper for the little girl. Without hesitation, or a single word, the woman stepped back into the room, packed up all of the supper she had just set out on the table and gave it to her unexpected guests to take home with them. She didn't say "come back for our leftovers", she didn't even say "come in and share the meal with us". She simply packed up everything and sent them on their way.

In our gospel stories, we hear of people who have suffered greatly and come to Jesus out of desperation, for themselves and for their loved ones; and Jesus responds with a generosity that far exceeds expectations. It's not easy to ask for help. It's not easy to let others into the hurt and pain of our private world. For those of us who have had to humble ourselves in this way, the embarrassment and shame can last a lifetime.

It's also not easy to be generous beyond expectation. We have been brought up in a society where we always look out for number one. Sure, we're willing to share our scraps, give away our rejects, but who of us would buy ourselves a new coat and then give it to a homeless person? Who of us would prepare a banquet and open our doors to those who are hungry? It goes against our "better judgment" and sense of self-protection. But what if we started small? What if we started with random acts of kindness? Buy a stranger a coffee, pay for someone's groceries, leave an extra big tip for your wait-staff, smile and say hello to people on the street. It may not seem like much in the moment, but it can make a big difference in someone's day and even in their life.

The story I read had been written by the child, now a grown woman. She remembered this act of kindness her whole life and it made her want to help others, herself. So, when she graduated from high school, she went on to university and became a social worker, helping at risk children find their way in this challenging world.

February is Heart Month and February 17th is Random Acts of Kindness Day, so why not open your heart to others and share God's abundant love well ... abundantly!

Shalom, Ivy

February

Birthdays

Roberta Roach 4th
Lynda Martyn 6th
Jack DeGruchy 7th
Jean Bowman 9th
Sue Goodwin 9th
Kay Mcleod 9th
Ron Tuchsén 9th
Agnes Shewring 10th
Gloria Tuchsén 11th
Joan Dunbar 12th
Ako Hobbs 23rd
Dorothy Lawrie 23rd

Anniversaries

Ed and Rose Hoffman 3rd



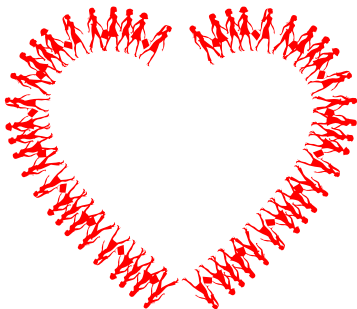
Tea Time With Ivy

The last Friday of each month at St Paul's
Next Tea Time is Feb 29th
from 10-11 am

Join Ivy for casual
conversation
& refreshments
Everyone welcome!



Ladies Luncheon



Friday, February 28th

NOON

**The Old Spaghetti Factory
1755 Capri Street.**



Lenten Book Study

The books are now in and can be picked up in the office.

Cost \$25

Wednesdays February 26th – April 8th 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.

SongShine Musical Therapy Group

The SongShine Music Therapy choir held a very successful Christmas concert on Dec 8, 2019 followed by a tasty social enjoyed by everyone.



Our membership has grown over the past few years to an average of 23 members attending each week.

They come to exercise their facial muscles and strengthen their voices through a variety of vocal exercises and singing.

Equally as important is the camaraderie achieved by our monthly social held after class on the second Tuesday of each month. We give thanks with gratitude to St. Paul's staff and congregation for their continued generous support.

We welcome any new members with Parkinson's or other disorder that may affect their voice strength.



SongShine Tuesday @ 1pm

*Come and check us out,
any Tuesday from
1-2:30 pm in the Church
Hall. Carole Taylor from
SongShine.*

PAR Contributions

If you would like to contribute through monthly Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) deductions, please contact the office to fill out the required form and provide a void cheque. Deductions should start the following month.

- And if you are already on PAR and would like to change your monthly offering, those forms are also in the office and can be completed quickly.

2020 Offerings

- For registered envelope holders who have not yet picked up their 2020 envelopes, they are ready and available in the office.
- If you would like to receive weekly offering envelopes, please contact the office to complete the required form and the envelopes will be ready within a day or two.



2019 Tax Receipts

The official tax receipts for 2019 contributions will be ready by the first Sunday in February. They will be distributed by the ushers for several weeks and the remaining ones will be mailed out near the end of February.

February Sunday Themes:

February. 2nd - I was hungry and you fed me.
(We will have a guest speaker talking about the Homelessness initiatives happening in Kelowna)

February. 9th -
"You are salt of the earth/Light of the world"
Ivy will be on holiday from Feb.10 – 23.

February 16th – Choir Hymnspiration Service
February 23rd – Sherri Fowler Guest Preacher



Coming Up >>>

In The Next Month

March 4th Pastoral Care Meeting
March 4, 11, 18, 25 - 1pm Book Study
March 8th 10 am Worship & Potluck @
First Mennonite
March 14th & 28th 2pm Wild Church
March 23rd 5:30pm Willowbridge
March 27th @ 10am Tea Time with Ivy



St Paul's United