# A MESSAGE FROM PAULIN MEMORIAL CHURCH September 2022

## Message from Reverend Lisa

It feels a little bit strange to think that fall is almost upon us. Stores are now filled with everything pumpkin spice flavoured under the sun, and students and teachers are now coming to terms with their morning alarm clocks that can no longer be ignored, as life has moved on from the lazy mornings of summer break. Even at Paulin things are starting to change, as our weekly bible studies are now up and running and we're starting to prepare ourselves for another season of worshiping the Lord. Yes, I know that the New Year is in January, but in my mind September is when it really starts, as everyone is ready to start anew after a summer break, and this year it seems truer than most.

This September, things really seem to be starting anew. Each Sunday we're seeing more of our Paulin family return to in-person worship as they are feeling more comfortable to attend in-person. We are also blessed by having new people join us for our Sunday worship. There is a sense of something new happening at Paulin, and it's wonderful to see the enthusiasm of our church family and to watch it grow and flourish.

I thought this might be the time to invite everyone to join in this new life that God is causing to happen within our church, and I want to do this by transforming something that some of our members might already know about, a pledge card. In other churches this might be used as a means of helping them understand what their monetary budget might be for the coming years as families make a pledge about how much they want to give the church within that year. But that's not how we're going to use them at Paulin. Instead, I want to encourage everyone to make their own pledge card and rather than write down a monetary value, I want you to write down something that you are going to try in this upcoming season

of worship. Perhaps you might be inspired to pledge to take an active part in a mission project, which may be something that you have often thought about but never was able to remember to do. Perhaps you will pledge to be a Sunday school monitor, or to read scripture, or sing in the choir. You might make the pledge that you're going to come to church a little more often or that you pledge to help out on one of the many committees, or come to a bible study. There are countless ways in which you can pledge your support to our church and I would like to invite you do so now.



September is the start of a new season in the life of our church and we would love to have you join us, wherever the Holy Spirit might be calling you to support the ministry, the mission and the work of our church as we continue to celebrate and praise the good news of the gospel.

Thanks be to God, Amen, Reverend Lisa

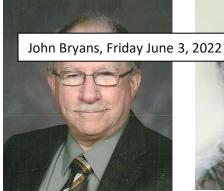
## A Word or Two from your Board of Managers

The last few months have been relatively uneventful for the Board. That is a blessing as that means there was no flooding, nor were there any major repairs or emergencies that required our attention! We wish to thank our Garden Angels (and you know who you all are!) who consistently keep our beautiful gardens well-watered and free of weeds! Also, a special thank you to the Boy Scouts that meet in our church. They helped out with a repair needed to one of our brick garden beds in the front of the church. Under the direction of one of our members, the boys and some of their parents came one Saturday morning and assisted in removing and relaying the bricks. It is once again level and sturdy!



With regards to our finances, we are pleased to report that our deficit quoted in the summer Stewardship letter has been reduced by 62%. As at the end of August the year to date deficit sits at (\$7524). Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the general fund and to all who supported the Fundraising events recently held at Paulin. An application for an Energy Rebate was submitted to the Provincial Government and a \$2544 rebate was received in June. All committees have tried to keep expenses to a minimum. We are continuing to monitor our decision to delay filling the position of Office Administrator. We have volunteers filling in and Rev Lisa has been able to answer the phone and door during the week. So far, we seem to be managing well! All of this has helped in reducing our deficit. Once more, a very big THANK YOU!

### Bereavements: We were saddened by the passing of the following members of our Paulin family.



Derek Petro, June 29, 2022



Lorena Pickel, July 30, 2022



John Bryans, June 3, 2022



Howard Johnson, June 21, 2022

#### **Volunteers Needed**

Looking for ways to live out your faith journey in our congregation and community? Please consider volunteering with one of the church committees. Volunteers are needed for our **Christian Education** programs to operate. Can you teach Sunday school a couple of Sundays a month? Be the second person (monitor) to support the Sunday school teachers? Share your faith journey with our preteens or teenagers at a monthly Coffee House? Talk to Reverend Lisa if you are interested in helping out in Sunday school or if you have questions.



# **Process for Electing New Ruling Elders**

Many of our long serving elders are retiring from session and we are seeking ruling elders to join session who are professing member of the congregation and are "an example to the believers in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity." Members vote for those they believe should be called to eldership. If the congregation agrees to term eldership on September 25, 2022, then elections will occur every 2 years. With Term Eldership, Elders commit to a 6-year term but can be re-elected for more than 1 term.

The process is as follows:

- A nominating letter for a member of the congregation is signed by 2 members and submitted to the acting clerk of session, Anne McLachlan, by October 9, 2022.
- Nominated individuals will meet with Rev. Lisa Aide to discuss the eldership role and decide if their names will be put forth for election by October 24, 2022.
- Election of elders will occur by ballot at a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 13, 2022. Members who cannot attend that meeting can submit their ballot to their elder ahead of time in a sealed envelope. A short biography will be provided by each candidate. At this time, there is no limit on the number of elders to be ordained to session.
- Ordination of elders will occur during a worship service in the following weeks.



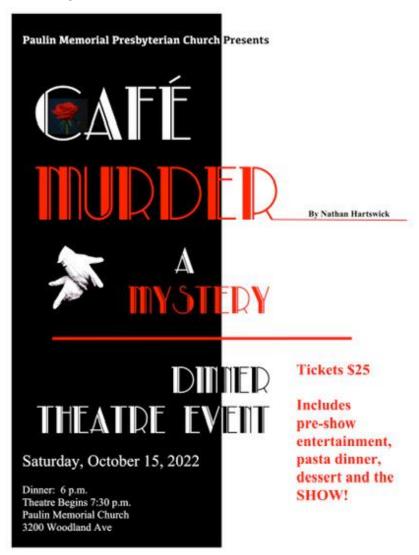
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#### **Mission & Outreach Committee**

Thanks to everyone who supported the Indoor Yard Sale on August 27, 2022. It served a number of purposes: Stewardship of our environment, community outreach, & support for International Development. Paulin people were able to recycle stuff; members of the community were able to get treasures at a bargain rate; and \$527 was raised for Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D).

September 30<sup>th</sup> is **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**. In our journey of reconciliation and to acknowledge the damage done by the Presbyterian Church's role in residential indigenous schools, please wear an orange shirt to worship service on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to everyone who purchased an official orange shirt as \$8 from each shirt goes to the Orange Shirt Society which brings awareness about the intergenerational effects of residential schools and that "Every Child Matters." Excess funds (approximately \$44) from the sale of these shirts will go to Presbyterians Sharing Indigenous Ministries.

More information about our October Mission project, supporting the St. Clair College student food bank, will coming in the next few weeks.



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#### **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

Our committee is responsible for planning the Sunday morning services, and there are a few reasons for feeling optimistic about our worship.

Attendance is gradually increasing, so that we usually have at least sixty people for live services, while the livestreamed and YouTube versions continue.

The choir is gradually increasing in numbers, with some young people who are pursuing music studies at the university. But above all we now have a permanent Music Director, Heather Inksetter, who is very enthusiastic about her work and has lots of ideas for continuing and also expanding our great music tradition at Paulin. Finally, we are always looking for new choir members from the congregation. Just speak to me if interested.

~Norm Diffey, Chair.