



St. Paul's is a family, commissioned by Christ, gathered together in faith to glorify God and nurture spiritual growth through worship and service.



Our Sunday Service begins at 10:30 AM. We are located at 319 Prescott Street at the corner of Mary Street in Kemptville, Ontario.

To find our online service, go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Kemptville.

# St. Paul's Matters

[www.stpaulskemptville.ca](http://www.stpaulskemptville.ca)

Fall - 2023

## The Gift of Waiting



### Dear Beloved St. Paul's Family,

The Advent season is fast approaching, and soon we will find ourselves in a beautiful church season of anticipation, hope and spiritual growth, as we count down the days to Christmas. This is a time when, as a community of faith, we begin a journey of waiting. Waiting, though often viewed as a challenging and sometimes "frustrating experience", holds a profound significance in our spiritual lives.

In a world that seems to constantly rush forward, where instant pleasure is often the norm, waiting can feel like doing nothing or a boring thing to do. Yet, waiting is something that our faith encourages us to embrace. The Bible is filled with stories of waiting; from Abraham and Sarah eagerly waiting for the promise of a child, to the people of Israel awaiting their liberation from Egypt and, of course, the waiting for the Messiah's arrival.

In this season of waiting, we find ourselves in a sacred pause. A time to reflect, prepare, and nurture our spirits. It's a reminder that not everything worthwhile comes immediately. Sometimes, the most precious gifts are found in the stillness of waiting, just as the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, was foretold and eagerly awaited for centuries.

In our waiting, we have the opportunity to

cultivate patience and trust. Patience in knowing that God's timing is perfect, and trust in the promises that have been given to us. It's a time to open our hearts and minds, allowing God's grace to fill us, just as Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the wise men allowed the presence of God to transform their lives during the first Advent.

While we anticipate Christ's birth in Advent, waiting fills us with the hope of His second coming – a hope that helps us face the challenges that come our way. This hope is a guiding light, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the promise of Christ's coming brings light and salvation to our lives.

As we prepare for this Advent season, I encourage you to embrace the gift of waiting. Find time for quiet reflection, prayer, and acts of kindness. Use this time to draw closer to God, to one another, and to the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of our Savior, who brings peace, joy, love and hope.

May this season of waiting be a season of blessing and transformation for each one of us. Let us prepare our hearts to welcome the Christ child, knowing that the gift of His presence is worth the wait.

**Have a blessed Advent,  
Rev. Samer**

## Welcome Ellis Gordon Stewart!



Taylor and Lucas Stewart, along with Grandma Heather, are overjoyed to share news of the birth of Ellis Gordon Stewart on June 25, 2023. He's a happy and healthy boy. Auntie Kaja and Uncle Jesse could not be more happy and proud. May all the blessings and happiness be theirs. (Also, Happy Hot Dog Halloween!)

## Happy 85th Birthday to Ray Porter!



## St. John's United Holds Appreciation Lunch for St. Paul's



Our luncheon for St. Paul's Sept 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Thank you to all who helped make this  
worship service and luncheon happen!



### St. Paul's Members and Friends are Invited to a Gingerbread House and Pizza Party

When: Friday, December 1, 2023

Time: 6:00PM

Where: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church Hall

Admission is a donation of canned goods or cash for our local Salvation Army Food Bank.

**Please register by Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, to reserve your own house to decorate.**

**Register by contacting Nancy or Judy Messenger in-person or by phone at (613) 258-5538. You can also use the sign-up sheet in the church hall.**

### WINTER PORCH DÉCOR



St. Paul's is selling a gorgeous, curated selection of local evergreens and natural elements in a simple black pot, all spiffed up with some Christmas Bling! It's a beautiful addition for your front porch.

The cost is just \$40 and orders can be placed via the St. Paul's website at <https://stpaulskemptville.ca/christmas-porch-decor>.

**Porch Décor Pick-up is at St. Paul's on  
November 11<sup>th</sup> from 12PM to 2PM**

## Carmichael Family Reunion



This July saw Annie and I fly out to Okotoks, Alberta, to attend a Carmichael family reunion. This was a make-up reunion for one that was supposed to have taken place during the first year of COVID.

With five brothers, and families that live all across Canada, it was great to get together and reminisce about old times. It was also great to meet nieces and nephews who had not been seen for a while.

Of course, a trip to Alberta had to involve lots of sightseeing including a trip through Turner Valley, a hike and picnic at Blue Mountain, and attending a street festival in Okotoks. It also included a reunion dinner at a restaurant in Okotoks that was formerly a church. It was voted the most romantic restaurant in Canada. If anyone is interested, it is called the Heartland Café.

Our time was way too short, but hopefully we can get together again. If not, we will have these memories that will never be forgotten.

David Carmicheal

## New Members of St. Paul's

(Thank you to Donna Waldorf for submitting these photos.)



Rev. Samer with new communicants Joanna and Paul Kandalajt, Jacob Blondin and Ruling Elder Corina Blondin



"I am very proud to now be a true member of our wonderful church family. I love each and every one!"  
Donna Waldorf



**DID YOU KNOW THAT OUR WEBSITE AT ST. PAUL'S IS UPDATED EVERY WEEK? IT IS A GREAT PLACE TO LOOK FOR PHOTOS AND INFORMATION. YOU CAN FIND IT AT:**

[stpaulskemptville.ca](http://stpaulskemptville.ca)

**IF YOU KNOW OF FRIENDS OR NEIGHBOURS WHO WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL, CONTACT JIM ARMOUR AT [j.armour@cogeco.ca](mailto:j.armour@cogeco.ca)**

**ST. PAUL'S WORSHIP SERVICE IS ONLINE**

**You can now download it every Sunday after 2PM**

**Visit YouTube.com and search for St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Kemptville**

## Photos from the Kandalafts' Trip to Lebanon and Egypt



We are excited to share some of the wonderful memories from our recent family trip to Lebanon and Egypt. Our journey was a remarkable blend of learning and adventure, and it has been an extraordinary blessing for all of us. Our children were thrilled by the rich history, nature and cul-

ture of these ancient lands, broadening their horizons in ways we could never have imagined.

Here are some of the 2,600 pictures which Shahrzad took during the trip.

**The Kandalaft Family**

## Thanks for Supporting the Fish & Chips Fundraiser!



DOWN MEMORY LANE

In the year 2022, on our 54<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, Moira and I went on a trip down memory lane to Orillia, Ontario, the Sunshine Town, to revisit the occasion of our wedding on June 15, 1968. We visited the places of our first meeting, courting, and proposal, our wedding, taking up house and sightseeing.

We first met in 1966 in a garden which adjoined our property, and at that moment, *"the world was hushed, and time stood still"*. To quote Victor Hugo, *"Love, it is life; love, it is sight; love, is to be."*

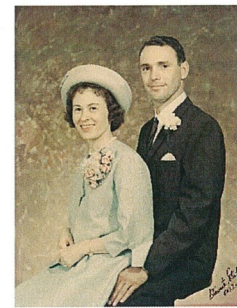
Moira was living with her mother in a house known as the Stratton House, a historical site, on Brant Street and it was there that I courted Moira and proposed to her (she said yes).



Stratton House Grounds 1967



Stratton House 2022



Wedding Picture

On June 15, 1968, we were married in St Andrews Presbyterian Church by the Reverend Doctor Eric Beggs (1927-2021), who conducted the service.



St Andrews Presbyterian Church



June 15, 1968,



June 15, 2022

The church organ ranks among the twenty largest great Pipe Organs of Canada. The church pulpit is a memorial to the Rev. John Gray, MA, DD, (1851-1913), first minister of the church, who married my Great Grandparents in 1874.

The reception was at Birchmere Lodge, now a retirement residence. We honeymooned in Niagara Falls, Kingston, and the nation's capital. Moira said that I held her hand all the way to the falls, but I do not remember. We lived in a beautiful double home on Mary Street, owned by Moira's mother, Edith Dickey, until our move from Orillia in 1975.



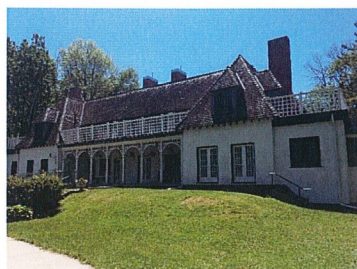
Birchmere Lodge Grounds



Mary Street House

Orillia was the summer home of Stephen Leacock, now a national historical site. He wrote *Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town*, "which chronicled life in the fictional community of Mariposa, modelled on Orillia." "Other famous people of Orillia were Franklin Carmichael Group of Seven, Elizabeth Wyn Wood Sculptor, Sam Steele North-West Mounted Police, Leslie M. Frost Premier of Ontario, James K. Bartleman lieutenant governor of Ontario," Jacob Gill "Jake" Gaudaur, Sr. who was one of two Canadians to win the Professional World Sculling Championship, Gordon Lightfoot, and Jerry Anderson.

I attended high school at the same time as Gordon, and we had music sessions together.



Stephen Leacock Museum



Gordon Lightfoot Bust  
City Hall



Couching Beach Park

In the twilight of our years, memories, held dear to our hearts, begin to fade.  
A memorable trip, one which we may not make again.

Moira and Jerry Anderson

## Poetry Corner

### Key Contacts at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

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### Vestigia

By Bliss Carman

I took a day to search for God,  
And found Him not. But as I trod  
By rocky ledge, through woods untamed,  
Just where one scarlet lily flamed,  
I saw His footprint in the sod.

Then suddenly, all unaware,  
Far off in the deep shadows, where  
A solitary hermit thrush  
Sang through the holy twilight hush  
I heard His voice upon the air.

And even as I marvelled how  
God gives us Heaven here and now,  
In a stir of wind that hardly shook  
The popular leaves beside the brook -  
His hand was light upon my brow.

At last with evening as I turned  
Homeward, and through what I had learned  
And all that there was still to probe -  
I caught the glory of His robe  
Where the last fires of sunset burned.

Back to the world with quickening start  
I looked and longed for any part  
In making saving Beauty be ...  
And from that kindling ecstasy  
I knew God dwelt within my heart.



### Midnight Between the Old and the New

By Mary Jane Lawson

We stood on the bridge of the Ages -  
The current of Time upon earth.  
The Old Year was sealing its record,  
The New Year had come to the birth.  
In silence we stood by the ebb-tide  
And watched it melt into the sea -  
A drop in that infinite ocean  
That has been and ever shall be.

### The Dash

By Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak  
at the funeral of a friend  
He referred to the dates on the tomb-  
stone  
from the beginning ... to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth  
and spoke the following date with tears,  
but he said what mattered most of all  
was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time  
that they spent alive on earth.  
And now only those who loved them  
know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own -  
the cars ... the house ... the cash.  
What matters is how we live and love  
and how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard.  
Are there things you'd like to change?  
For you never know how much time is left  
that can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough  
to consider what's true and real,  
and always try to understand  
the way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger  
and show appreciation more,  
and love the people in our lives  
like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect  
and more often wear a smile,  
remembering this special dash  
might only last a while.

So, when your eulogy is being read  
with your life's actions to rehash,  
would you be proud of the things they say  
about how you spent YOUR dash?

