

Friday, 27 November 2020

Good afternoon St. Paul's,

In two days, on Advent Sunday, we arrive at the beginning of a new Christian year and hear the reminder that Christ came into our tangled world with good news, that Christ will come again in justice at the end of time as we know it, to untangle our world—and that Christ may come to us and to those around us at any time these Advent weeks, to begin the work of justice, of making things right. Are we ready to hear Christ's call to join in this work?

As you now know from multiple sources, and as noted below** for the public health good of our city, "faith-based activities are paused" ... that is on-site, public services of worship and gatherings are suspended. Our doors are locked. But faith-based volunteer and staff activities continue on-site, conforming to all Public Health regulations, including the making of Sunday worship videos. And above all, however we do it, our faith isn't paused! We invite you to join in the many 'physically distant' ways of practising worship, life, and outreach, old and new, that are being offered in the coming weeks of Advent, as we prepare for Christ's coming.

Your pastor,

Paul+

**On Tuesday, November 24th, Dr. Robert Strang announced some changes to the Public Health Guidelines to help deal with the rising number of COVID-19 infections in Nova Scotia. "New restrictions came into force at 12:01 am on Thursday, November 26 and continue for two weeks until midnight December 9, with a possibility of extension" Among other things he said, "organized sports, recreational, athletic, arts and cultural activities, faith-based activities are paused." He added "these measures are targeted to reduce the situations in which COVID-19 thrives."

We expect that the two-week period will be a minimum so SafeR Church is working on the assumption that these new regulations will be in place for at least 4 weeks (i.e. until Dec 23) & depending on how COVID-19 case numbers go, it could be longer. We simply do not know. What we do know is how to cope with the situation. We have been there before - from March until August. We have learned many lessons. Essentially, we are going back to the way we worked in the spring and summer.

So until December 23, or further Public Health notifications:

- Office Hours: Hours as usual, outer doors locked. Open for staff and parish volunteers on parish business. Masks on/off per Public Health protocols on site. All parish committee and group meetings and events by Zoom or electronic means, under the direction of the staff and volunteers already leading them.
- Wednesday Eucharists are cancelled.
- Wednesday take-out lunches and grocery trip as usual. Indoor cold weather spacing organized by Samuel. Guests immediately leave with lunches and/or for Sobeys if on the list for the week.
- Sunday Eucharists in St. Paul's, which we have enjoyed since late August, will be replaced by weekly worship videos on YouTube again. The Rector and helpers will present the Sunday Liturgy. It will be pre-recorded and released on Sunday. We thank Ashley for his willingness to return to production mode and Gail for organizing the release of the videos for Sunday viewing. The Rector will once again host Zoom Coffee on Sundays at 11am.
- Sunday School will meet virtually. Cathy has advised the parents of how this will happen. The Youth Group will also go back into virtual mode.
- Christmas on the Grand Parade - scheduled for Dec 14 - is, sadly, cancelled.
- Greening of the Church which usually precedes Christmas on the Grand Parade is on hold for now. There may be more on this activity depending on how the situation unfolds. We hope to be able to loosen these constraints as soon as possible and return to a more usual approach, especially as Christmas arrives. The SafeR Church Committee will monitor the situation carefully and try to keep all parishioners informed. With thanksgiving for all of God's goodness, at all times, and in all places—and with thanks to you, our Lord's servants ... and in prayer for those in frail health, physical and mental,

The Rector & Wardens of St. Paul's, Halifax

A-WEEK-AND-A-BIT AT ST. PAUL'S:

27 November – 6 December 2020

Weekdays Parish Office open 9-4; Church Doors opened for duties and appointments only.

FRIDAY	27 NOVEMBER
9:00 am	Zoom Matins
1:00 pm	Advent Sunday Video Recording <i>Chancel & Nave</i>
SATURDAY	28 NOVEMBER
9:00 am	Matins <i>Zoom</i>
SUNDAY	29 NOVEMBER Advent Sunday
7:00 am	Pre-recorded Sunday Video released to Parish Email Group <i>*Isaiah 64.1-9; Psalm 80; I Corinthians 1.1-9; Mark 13.24-37</i>
6:30 pm	Faith Sharing Group <i>Zoom</i>
MONDAY	30 NOVEMBER
9:00 am	Matins <i>Zoom</i>
7:00 pm	Consecration of Bishop Fyfe <i>All Saints Cathedral, Halifax</i>
TUESDAY	1 DECEMBER
9:00 am	Matins <i>Zoom</i>
12:00 pm	Noon Theology <i>Zoom</i>
7:00 pm	Youth Group <i>Zoom</i>
WEDNESDAY	2 DECEMBER
9:00 am	Matins <i>Zoom</i>
11:00 am	Eucharist <i>Chancel</i>
12:00 pm	Rector's Lunch (Take-out) <i>Coffee Zone</i>
THURSDAY	3 DECEMBER
9:00 am	Matins <i>Zoom</i>
9:30 am	Women's Bible Study <i>Zoom</i>
2.00-4:30 pm	AST: Ang. Theo. Roots & Branches <i>Zoom: Rector's Office</i>
FRIDAY	4 DECEMBER
9:00 am	Matins <i>Zoom</i>
1:00 pm	Advent II Sunday Video Recording <i>Chancel & Nave</i>
SATURDAY	5 DECEMBER
9:00 am	Matins <i>Zoom</i>
SUNDAY	6 DECEMBER Advent II
7:00 am	Pre-recorded Sunday Video released to Parish Email Group <i>*Isaiah 40.1-11; Psalm 85; II Peter 3.8-15; Mark 1.1-8</i>
6:30 pm	Faith Sharing Group <i>Zoom</i>

PARISH NOTICES

THE RECTOR THANKS his divinity intern, Benjamin von Bredow, for accepting his offer to preach in his place this Advent Sunday (November 29th).

CREATE *for Kids & Families*
SPACE

AN ONLINE ART-MAKING EVENT
with Nathan Little (artist-in-residence at St. Pauls Anglican Church)

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29TH, 2-4PM
When Nature Surprises Us - a tissue paper art prompt

SUPPLY LIST:
WHITE GLUE
SCRAPS OF COLORED TISSUE PAPER
PAINT BRUSH

SMALL CUPS FOR WATER
PLASTIC WRAP / GARBAGE BAG
MASKING/PACKING TAPE

PART OF THE HOPE & INSPIRATION ONLINE ART SHOW
hosted by the Environment Network Diocese NE & PEI
facebook.com/parishhousestudio

CREATE SPACE NEWS! Our Artist-in-Residence is hosting a special art-making event in collaboration with the Environment Network Diocese of NS & PEI and as part of their online **Hope & Inspiration Art Show** - Anglican Diocesan Environment Network. Using observations from *when nature surprises us* we will create some tissue paper art., and hang it up as stained glass for the coming season, or cut it into creative shapes. Gather up your supplies and then join the Zoom call on Nov 29th at 2:00pm as we play with the materials together. All details are

in this Facebook event listing:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/358421838772070/>

HOLLY HOUSE UPDATE: Thank you to all who generously contributed craft supplies and monetary donations to support the Holly House craft fair last Saturday. It was a roaring success, raising \$1800 for the *Abundance Program* as well as giving contributing residents a participation wage for their work. The *Abundance Program* aims to assist Holly House residents in attaining goals related to education, employment, and self sustainability. The coordinator, staff and residents all wish to send St. Paul's a big thank you for their support! It was busy and people were in good spirits when a few members of the Women's Bible Study took pizza to the house last Friday night on behalf of our parish and had a chance to talk with staff and residents over dinner. Please remember that people can still contribute gift cards as Christmas gifts for the residents of Holly House. You can mail them or drop them off to the church office who will forward to our Women's Group. Again, the cards needed are to: Shoppers, Dollarama, or No Frills in increments of \$10 or \$20. You can also deliver them to the mailbox at 6818 Edward Arab Ave.

WHITE RIBBON SUNDAY was November 22nd. Many are wearing a white ribbon for the 16 days of activism (Nov. 25 – Dec. 10) with the pledge never to commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women and girls. This is supported/promoted by the Anglican Church Women Board, Diocese of NS & PEI. Feel free to don your own white ribbon in support.

THE FAITH SHARING GROUP will resume on Advent 1 (Nov. 29, 6:30 - 8pm) with an Advent spiritual disciplines focus. Join us for an intentional 4 weeks to move deeper into the Advent season. We meet every Sunday night. Email Kate Crane (katy.r.crane@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

SUPPLEMENTAL PRAYERS: From time to time over the coming months *Book of Common Prayer* (1962) will be supplemented by collects taken from **After the Third Collect** (Mowbray, 1959), some in a revised format.

THE ZOOM NOON THEOLOGY GROUP meets on Tuesdays. If you're interested in joining in our weekly **Tuesday 12.00-1.00 pm** discussions, please let the parish office know you want to be on the Zoom list. This week (17 November) we begin a collection of C.S. Lewis' writings on Christian spirituality recently published as *How to Pray: Reflections & Essays* (2018). Feel free to join in as we begin a new book!

THE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP will continue to meet, via Zoom, at 10am on Thursdays. We will break after Dec 3rd and resume on January 7th. Next week we will be discussing the following Sunday's readings and determining our study for the new year. If anyone is interested in joining, they can contact Adriel at adrieldriver@gmail.com.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS: Our youth have been meeting on Tuesday evenings (7-8:30 pm) at Parish House up until the latest restrictions this week. The leaders will send an e-mail to the youth group families with details about whether or how youth group will continue. If you're interested in being added to the youth group, you can contact Benjamin von Bredow, Katherine Lee, or Adriel Driver through the parish office. All youth are encouraged to join us at any time!

ZOOM MATINS GROUP NEWS: This group, with a variety of members on any given day, meets daily, Monday-Saturday at 9.00 am to pray 'Matins' and discuss Scriptures and faith. If you're not on the Matins list and would like to drop in, you're welcome to join in as frequently or as infrequently as makes sense to you. Just let the parish office know.

PARKING: Thanks to the City of Halifax & SONCO, we have two more areas for parking: 9:30-11:30 on Sundays for both lots: a) next to 1718 Argyle/beside Parish House AND b) the upper part of the lot at the corner of George and Barrington (the entrance on Granville is gated but the gate will be up on Sundays). You **MUST** sign-in for a **St. Paul's Parking pass**, however, and have this pass **CLEARLY** displayed on your dash to avoid ticketing/towing. We look forward to resuming in-house services and using these parking spaces once again.

ALL VISITORS MUST SIGN IN: Please remember the importance of signing in to the LOG at the Welcome Desk in the Narthex ANY time you enter the church; and please log your time in/out of Parish House as well and submit to the office. **THIS IS MANDATORY.** Thank you.

FROM OUR PROPERTY CHAIR: Parish House is in need of some upgrading/replacing of the doorknobs/locks on its many interior doors. We are blessed to have this historic building so very busy with a variety of outreach, mission, art, music, counselling and Sunday School! Any help with this project will be appreciated by many people. Please contact the office if you (*or someone you know*) has lock-smithing experience & can assist by sharing suggestions.

ANGLICAN 2021 CALENDARS: We have only a few left, so contact Kathleen Flowerdew directly or via the office to purchase yours at cost (\$5).

IT'S REALLY OK TO ENTER ST. PAUL'S CHURCH but ... when you are leaving could you remember to pull the outside doors tightly shut behind you? During the fall and winter seasons it is easy to leave our swollen wooden doors not quite completely latched on exit and leave the building at risk.

OUR FISH COFFEEHOUSE TEAM supported by our Property Chair, Sexton, SafeR Church Committee, and other volunteers is continuing their wonderful job of redecorating, refurbishing, and preparing Parish House for a Coffee House reopening as soon as possible. Renovations usually take longer than anticipated, and the welcoming space for FISH has been no exception.

ALTAR FLOWERS AT ST. PAUL'S: St. Paul's has a long history of having altar flowers pledged for every Sunday throughout the year. We sincerely appreciate all the donors who remember a loved one or a special occasion with flowers. Having altar flowers every Sunday for 52 weeks, however, does not just happen. Over 50 people are needed annually to pledge flowers. We thank those who do pledge year after year but new donors are needed and welcome to support the Flower Programme. A single order is \$50.00 and a double order is \$100.00. Special dates to be remembered can be selected on the Flower Calendar at the beginning of the year. Or, preferably, at least three months in advance. Is this something YOU would like to do? The names of donors and people remembered appear in the weekly leaflet the week that the flowers are on the altar and are visible also when we are in 'virtual mode' in the pre-recorded Sunday Videos, as well as on Facebook and our website. For more information, please contact Diane in the office! The flowers this week are given to the glory of God and in memory of Allan & Anne MacDonald from their family David & Cathy MacDonald and dedicated to my daughters, Jennifer & Angela, granddaughters Shaela & Darrah from Wayne Garland.

PWRDF CHRISTMAS CARDS & MEDITATIONS: For 2020, PWRDF has two beautiful new Christmas card designs: *Journey to the King* and *The World Awaits*. Cards support PWRDF work around the world and in Canada. A minimum donation of \$25 per pack of 12 cards with a 2020 design is required to receive an official tax receipt. Information about these new cards and how to purchase them is available from PWRDF: <https://pwrdf.org> or call 416-822-9083. For anyone wishing to use **free** PWRDF cards from previous years, a limited supply of cards is in a basket under the bulletin board (on your left as you leave the church). PWRDF was reimbursed for these cards in the years they were printed, so please accept them this year as gift from PWRDF volunteers. If using these free cards inspires you to send a general donation to PWRDF please contact PWRDF directly. Also please note that the PWRDF website offers free subscriptions to daily emailed reflections on Advent scriptures, connecting the work of the PWRDF to Advent themes. People who have subscribed in previous years have appreciated the gift of finding a brief but thoughtful meditation in their email every morning during the time of Advent. Thank you to everyone who continues to pray for and support the ongoing work of the PWRDF.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS/SERVICES: Our 8th Annual **Christmas On The Grand Parade** scheduled for Monday, Dec. 14th at 7pm has sadly been cancelled due to the latest health & safety regulations. We are remaining hopeful, however that our 2nd **Christmas Eve On The Grand Parade** (*starting at 7pm and very similar to COTGP*) which will follow our annual 4pm **Family Nativity Eucharist** will still take place. Our **Traditional Choral Eucharist** will be at 10am Christmas morning. As with everything else, Provincial Health Regulations require that we adapt our Christmas events this year and we have to wait, like everyone, for further provincial mandates before making decisions on what is safest for our parish this Christmas. We will keep everyone updated.

BISHOP CONSECRATION NOVEMBER 30th at 7:00pm! Great News! The Medical Director of Nova Scotia was given a copy of the Diocese plan for this modified service of Consecration and Installation, including their health and safety measures, and they have his approval to proceed. They are upholding all of the provincial regulations that apply to faith-based gatherings in this area as of this date according to Dr. Strang's direction. The worship space for this liturgy is considered to be the transept. No more than five people will be present in this space at any one time. The music ensemble is a family bubble and are always at least 60 feet away from members of the congregation. Videographers are at least 30 feet from the congregation. A photographer, when present, is at least 20' away from the congregation. Because of last minute changes due to the current travel restrictions, a change in the recording/broadcasting of the service has had to take place. As a result the live streaming will only be able to be shown through face book at the link below. Please note; you do not need a face book account to watch. Just click on the link below (live on Facebook at 7pm tomorrow night).

<https://www.facebook.com/Diocese-of-Nova-Scotia-and-Prince-Edward-Island-274107035933762>

A service bulletin will be emailed to churches as soon as it's ready. Please appreciate that due to the ever-shifting situation surrounding Covid-19, this also means the ever shifting of the details for the service and the Diocese apologizes that it could not be sent out earlier. The Bulletin can be forwarded to anyone who wishes it by email St. Paul's office (Gail will forward it to you if you request). For more information visit: <https://www.facebook.com/Diocese-of-Nova-Scotia-and-Prince-Edward-Island-274107035933762>

THE ST. PAUL'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME 2020/21: There has been a scholarship programme at St. Paul's Church since 1961 when a scholarship was established through the Isherwood Foundation to support theological students preparing for ordained ministry. In 1996 the terms of reference were broadened to provide an opportunity for non-theological students worshipping at St. Paul's Church to apply for a St. Paul's Scholarship. Applicants are asked to reflect on how their spiritual lives integrate with their scholastic pursuits and to present their understanding of the connection in their application submission. More details as well as the application form sample are posted on our Notice Board. Please email the office for the electronic version and then also to submit your application (note the deadlines below). If anyone has questions re: the St. Paul's Scholarship, please speak to Dr. Margaret Bateman Ellison, Emeritus Member of the Scholarship Committee. After 10 years of service, Margaret retired as a voting member of the Scholarship Committee in 2020. Since membership on the Scholarship Committee is anonymous, she agreed to serve as its public face and contact person.

All written parts of submissions must be sent electronically to the Parish Office
office@stpaulshalifax.org Attention: Office Manager

All must include the Cover Page with their submission and meet the required deadlines.

1. Submit intention to apply by January 15, 2021
2. Submit application including form/cover page provided by March 15, 2021
3. Committee review completed by April 30, 2021
4. Award recipient{s} announced by May 1st, 2021