

*Friday, 26 February 2021*

Good afternoon everyone,

Out front of St. Paul's, on the Grand Parade, it is exceedingly sunny yet quite cold – decidedly unlike the Springtime of our imagination.

But the English word 'Lent', used to mark the Church's season of preparation for Holy Week and Easter, is derived from an older form of 'lengthen', as in the season when the days grow longer, that is Spring...As if to remind us of the grace of 'time for amendment of life' for which we pray in the ancient Anglican 'office' of Compline, a prayer best said in the company of others.

This Second Sunday of Lent we'll join together again for a time of worship, with the help of our choristers and our guest Lenten preacher, Ron Nikkel.

See you soon,

Paul+

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

26 February – 7 March 2021

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

FRIDAY	26 FEBRUARY
9:00 am	Hybrid Matins <i>Chancel/Zoom</i>
12:30-3:30 pm	22M-Hour Productions filming <i>Memorial Room/Kitchen/Narthex/Front Steps</i>
SATURDAY	27 FEBRUARY
9:00 am	Matins <i>Zoom</i>
SUNDAY	28 FEBRUARY <b>Lent II</b>
*10:00 am	Eucharist & Children's Prog. <i>Chancel &amp; Parish House</i> Afternoon: Ante-Communion Video emailed *Genesis 17.1-16; Psalm 22.22-31; Romans 4.13-25; Mark 8.31-38
6:30 pm	Faith Sharing Group <i>Zoom</i>
MONDAY	1 MARCH
9:00 am	Matins <i>Zoom</i>
TUESDAY	2 MARCH
9:00 am	Matins <i>Zoom</i>
12:00 am	Noon Theology <i>Zoom</i>
6:30 pm	Youth Group <i>Parish House 1</i>
WEDNESDAY	3 MARCH
9:00 am	Matins <i>Zoom</i>
11:00 am	Eucharist <i>Nave &amp; Chancel</i>
12:00 pm	Rector's Lunch (Take-out) & Outreach <i>Coffee Zone</i>
THURSDAY	4 MARCH
9:00 am	Matins <i>Zoom</i>
9:30 am	Women's Bible Study <i>MacPherson Residence</i>
7:00 pm	Executive <i>Zoom</i>
FRIDAY	5 MARCH
9:00 am	Hybrid Matins <i>Chancel/Zoom</i>
SATURDAY	6 MARCH
9:00 am	Matins <i>Zoom</i>
SUNDAY	7 MARCH <b>Lent III – Commonwealth Sunday</b>
*10:00 am	Eucharist & Children's Prog. <i>Chancel &amp; Parish House</i> Afternoon: Ante-Communion Video emailed *Exodus 20.1-17; Psalm 19; I Corinthians 1.18-25; John 2.13-22
11:15 am	Parish AGM and Picnic <i>Nave</i>
6:30 pm	Faith Sharing Group <i>Zoom</i>

## PARISH NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PARISH LENTEN PROGRAMMES** are offered to all. We welcome Ron Nikkel, today's homilist, who also continues through the fifth *Sunday in Lent*, as our guest preacher. Our *Daily Matins* programme has begun its Lenten Lectionary reading of Scripture; our parish *Faith Sharing Group* (see below) is taking a Lenten theme; and our *Noon Theology Group* (at the times noted below) has a Lenten series on the Apostles' Creed facilitated by our Divinity Intern, with the help of the videos he has created for St. Paul's.

**OUR 2021 LENTEN PREACHER** is Ron Nikkel! Ron lives with Celeste (his wife) and their dog Charlie in northern Cape Breton where they have 'retired' after living & working in the Washington DC area for nearly 35 years. Ron is currently assisting in the parish of Neil's Harbour (St. Andrew's) with Ingonish (St. John's). He is also a sailor and has worked several seasons as crew on a lobster boat. Celeste is an artist, well known for her expressionistic works depicting the compelling moods of Cape Breton's coastline. Ron is passionate about justice and faith in the marketplace of everyday life. During his years in criminal justice ministry, he has been a global champion for Restorative Justice. In aid of this he has reported to Charles Colson, (remember him?), addressed Houses of Parliament, met Presidents and Ministers of government, and many prisoners, ex-prisoners, victims and their families. He has been in over 1200 prisons in 135 countries. He has often noted that the spiritual issues of life are often more real in miserable prisons than in the majestic cathedrals of the world. Ron has been an Atlantic School of Theology student and is a postulant for ordination in our diocese.

**LENT IS NOT ALWAYS EASY** to talk about or enter into. But sometimes another point of view, maybe from another age, can get through to us and open spiritual doors and windows for us. Sometimes that is by means of poetry. If you have a poem that has helped you in Lent, please send it along to the Rector and Office Manager for consideration as a future insert in one of our Lenten St. Paul's Leaflets.

**ST. PAUL'S 2021 AGM & PICNIC** will be next Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> after our 10am morning Eucharist. The Annual Report is now available (*find them on the display cabinets at the back of the Nave*); thank you to everyone who submitted. There will not be a meal served prior to the AGM this year. However, considering the time of day, you may want to bring a snack or lunch (plus beverage)? Granola Bar? Apple? Brown bag? Picnic basket/cooler for the family bubble? Beverage? Bring what suits your needs. Eat socially separated in the pew you sat in during the service. Be prepared to take the 'after lunch' trash away when you leave. We are looking forward to a great AGM and PICNIC!

**THE FAITH SHARING GROUP** gathers for Lent each Sunday at 6:30pm over Zoom. We will share weekly about our Lenten practices and meditate on different Psalms, using art from the Utrecht Psalter. Email Adriel ([adrieldriver@gmail.com](mailto:adrieldriver@gmail.com)) at any point for more information about the group.

**NEEDED:** The Holly House is continually transporting furniture for women who are setting up house in Dartmouth and Halifax. But they don't have any reliable way to transport said furniture! Does anyone know an able-bodied individual with access to a truck who might be willing to act as a volunteer from time to time? If so, he/she can contact Adriel Driver at [adrieldriver@gmail.com](mailto:adrieldriver@gmail.com) or the church office.

**THE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP** is into an 8 week study of Philippians. We meet in-person from 9:30-11:30 at Isobel MacPherson's apartment. Contact Mary at [dempstermary@gmail.com](mailto:dempstermary@gmail.com) or Margaret at [briarwoodbob@aol.com](mailto:briarwoodbob@aol.com) if you'd like to join us!

**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). The group's most recent 'alphabetic rotation selection', now being discussed, is Rowan William's *Anglican Identities*. *The Apostles Creed series* has begun, and runs through Lent, after which we will return to *Anglican Identities*. We welcome all interested people to join or re-join us for these series; just contact the Rector for the Zoom link.

**ST. PAUL'S HISTORIC AND MODERN** facilities and amenities are blessed by the dedicated work of our Property Chair, David Preston, who is using his considerable engineering project management skills on our behalf. What is happening at Parish House, the new Archives' Room, and elsewhere with the help of a variety of parish volunteers is exciting, helping us as a parish to engage in our worship, life, and outreach. David, or the Wardens, would be pleased to update you. Thank you to Ross Evans and his team for the beautiful transformation in the Gallery (see photos in this week's Leaflet insert).

**THE RECTOR'S LUNCH** take-out lunch and Grocery outreach continues to be offered weekly to many of our at-risk neighbours by a dedicated crew of volunteers. The Rector also thanks all those who contribute to the budget that allows this programme to run.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH:** In the world created by God, as Black History Month comes to an end (*Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> – Mar. 1<sup>st</sup> Annually*), we continue to give special thanks for African Nova Scotians, praying that the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024), will continue to highlight challenges and celebrate accomplishments of Africans around the globe.

**YOUTH GROUP UPDATE:** If you're interested in being added to the youth group e-list, you can contact *Benjamin von Bredow, Katherine Lee, or Adriel Driver*. We are continuing with Tuesdays, at 6:30 pm until Apr. 13<sup>th</sup>. All youth are encouraged to drop in!

**ALL VISITORS MUST CONTINUE TO 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.

**THE ZOOM MATINS GROUP** continues to meet on-line, Monday to Saturday at 9.00 and we are back to hybrid Friday Matins! Please feel free to join those who pray and read Scripture together at 9.00, whether daily, weekly, occasionally, or with some other pattern.

**FROM OUR PRAYERWEB CO-ORDINATOR:** It really does not matter who or what the need is, what matters is that in our quiet times, we are interceding on their behalf through prayer. In *Job 5:8* we hear him say, 'But, if it were I, I would appeal to God, I would lay my cause before him.' That is what we do through intercessory prayer; we look for and find the hope, the beauty and the love. We're linked by email and pray over shared intercessions in our own home. If you'd like to join us, please contact our Rector, Paul Friesen ([rector@stpaulshalifax.org](mailto:rector@stpaulshalifax.org)) and me ([isobelmacpherson@gmail.com](mailto:isobelmacpherson@gmail.com)). We would love to welcome you into our prayer web. Blessings, Isobel MacPherson.

**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, refurnishing, 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. Thank you to those who helped out Saturday night as we tended to finishing details.

**PWRDF:** The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund is the Anglican Church of Canada's agency that partners with organizations working to increase healthy pregnancies and births, reduce gender inequality, relieve hunger, and break the cycle of poverty in the world's most vulnerable communities. Against a backdrop of climate change, PWRDF strives to address the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. For more information, please visit <https://pwrdf.org> or call 416-822-9083. Thank you to everyone who continues to pray for and support the ongoing work of the PWRDF!

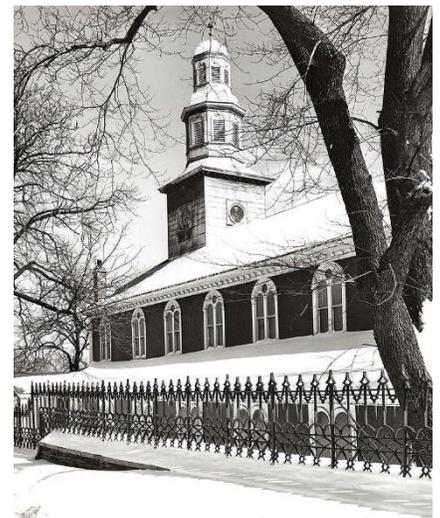
**PROVINCIAL HEALTH UPDATE:** Until further Public Health notifications ...

- 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 11am Eucharists have resumed (no need to pre-register with 100-person maximum). Wednesday take-out lunches and grocery trips as usual. Indoor cold weather spacing organized by volunteers. Guests immediately leave with lunches and/or for Sobeys if on the list for the week.
- Sunday Eucharists in St. Paul's, have resumed while maintaining the 100-person maximum.
- Sunday School has resumed in Parish House with proper distancing when we're at our tables and masks when we move around.

The SafeR Church Committee monitors the situation carefully and tries 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*

**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!



*Winter at St. Paul's, Circa 1950's*