



All are WELCOME at St. Paul's Cathedral

Services held each Sunday @ 10:00 a.m.

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THOUGHTS ON EPIPHANIES

by Susan Gorges

The word Epiphany comes from the Greek *epiphania*, meaning “appearance” or “manifestation,” however, the dictionary meaning is “a moment of sudden revelation or insight”. Clearly at the time of Jesus’ birth, the arrival of the Magi to Bethlehem was not a moment of revelation or insight. They simply followed the manifestation of a star. They did not know what they would find. A baby laying in a manger was an unexpected revelation.



The idea of a ‘saviour’ at the time was undoubtedly a person to overthrow the oppressive rule of the Romans – not a baby. The use of Epiphany in the Christian church did not happen at Jesus’ birth, but rather, once it was realized that the baby in Bethlehem **was** the long-awaited Messiah. What a surprise!



So, when was the “sudden realization”? The small number of people gathered around the baptism of Jesus heard God pronounce, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”. Even then, the ‘revelation’ was not complete.

Often, we struggle over what things mean. Sometimes, we do not have the complete grasp or the complete picture. It often appears like the punch line of a good joke – totally unexpected. Here’s an example:

A pastor once asked an older farmer – dressed in his worn bib overalls – to say grace before the morning meal.

Thoughts on Epiphanies cont'd

"Lord, I don't like buttermilk," the farmer began. The visiting pastor cracked one eye open, wondering where this prayer was headed.

The farmer continued, loud and clear, "Lord, I don't care much for lard either." The pastor shifted uncomfortably.

"And Lord," the farmer went on, "You know I really don't like raw white flour."

Now the pastor peeked around the room and noticed he wasn't the only one feeling uneasy.

But without missing a beat, the farmer added, "Yet Lord, when You mix all those things together and bake them...I sure do love warm, fresh biscuits.



Then he finished with this prayer: "So, Lord, when life hands us things we don't like – when it gets hard, or confusing, or we just don't understand what You are doing – help us to relax and wait for your mixing to finish. Because when You are done, it'll probably turn out even better than biscuits. Amen." (from Earth Geographic)

So, stay vigilant as the revelation may be only a piece of the puzzle. The complete picture may appear in the most unusual way.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



Christmas is such a special time of year, and the most common symbol of Jesus' birth is the beloved nativity scene. Parishioners were treated to a live nativity scene at the 5:00 Christmas Eve service complete with Mary and baby Jesus, Joseph, two angels and of course, a cow!! Love it!

Picture taken by Liz Turnball

SHROVE TUESDAY

The pancake supper for Shrove Tuesday will be held on February 17 starting at 5:00 p.m. The cost? A donation from you is all we ask.

What is the favourite topping for pancakes? Syrup, of course, so what a good time for a syrup sale! The large bottles of syrup will be on sale for \$5.00. And that's not all! If you purchase a jam at regular price, you will receive 2 small bottles of syrup free! Don't miss out.



Shrove Tuesday

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is when the congregation gathers to review the past year and set the course for the future. The AGM is not a command performance for church members, but it is a time to consider your relationship with the church and to help plan for the future.

Our AGM will take place on February 22nd following the 10:00 service. Reports are to be sent to the office prior to Friday, February 13th. An electronic copy makes the process much easier; however, paper copies are also accepted.

REJUVENATION

Saint Paul's has begun a project to restore and/or repair our beautiful stained-glass windows. The Vestry has set aside special funds for this work in an account called Cathedral Preservation. Maybe it should have been called "Rejuvenation"?

Preservation is a word implying the end result will be just as it was before. Rejuvenation, however, implies giving new energy or vigour. When we look at the windows that have been 'restored', you will see the colours are brighter and the light coming through is more intense (and will be even more intense once the external coverings of the windows are cleaned and/or upgraded). With all things considered, should this account have been called the Cathedral Rejuvenation account? Look around and you will note that there is more to do than just windows.

Rejuvenation cont'd

Last year, the town hall meeting about fencing brought together parishioners to examine safety concerns for the building, as well as the aesthetics. Landscaping would be a lovely way to rejuvenate how people perceive the building. Remember at the meeting when the Dean reported that an acquaintance of his asked if we had closed St. Paul's!

We also have requests from parishioners for an improved sound system and replacement of the carpet going down the centre aisle of the Cathedral. Both of these *rejuvenation* projects would improve the experience of all who come to worship at St. Paul's which is the reason Vestry has obtained preliminary quotations for this work.

As the saying goes "everything is possible, given time and money". Since this is a church, we must also add VOLUNTEERS.

Volunteering at St. Paul's is essential for our operations. And, more importantly, it is an opportunity for you to meet others and put down roots into a church community.



The Vestry has begun to gather the numbers to better understand the volunteer efforts which is so important to keep St. Paul's up and running. These numbers are preliminary, but they will give you an idea about the volunteer activity in 2025.

Twenty-two activities have been identified:

- committee work (Vestry, Columbarium, Building and Finance),
- non-paid ministries (Altar Guild, Readers, Greeters, Sunday School and Communion Assistants),
- special events (Strawberry Fair, Fall Supper, Christmas Bazaar, Advent Tea and Shrove Tuesday).

Each of these opportunities require a different amount of your time. Special events are once a year where time commitment could be as little as a few hours on the day of the event, or many hours if committing to the planning, set up and clean up.

Rejuvenation cont'd

Non-paid ministries have a larger roster of volunteers but the larger the roster, the fewer times per year you will be called upon. Some activities are very time-intensive, such as the Choir. All of them will require coming into the Cathedral and some will include evening hours, such as the Vestry.

If you are a writer or would like to be, you can contribute articles to Cathedral Calling or the Saskatchewan section of the Anglican Journal. If you enjoy photography, you can take pictures at the various events. And maybe you have an idea for a new program that could be offered.

Our congregation grows each month. New members, as well as long-standing members, are welcome to volunteer to an existing program or suggest new ones.

If you have an interest in any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact the People's Warden (susan@gorges.ca) or call (306) 546-4477.

VESTRY BRIEFS

Vestry meetings were held on November 18 and December 17, 2025. Following is a briefing for both meetings.

November 18, 2025

- Donna MacIntosh submitted a financial report for October 2025. Fall offerings (special offering) was much lower as compared to other years which could be contributed to the envelopes not being sent in the mail. There is a shortfall of \$4,141 to date.
- Discussion took place regarding stewardship planning and privacy policy.
- Suggestions for the next Strawberry Fair were given ranging from concerts to combining the sales of fresh strawberries to last years offerings of jams and syrups.
- A draft of the 2026 operating budget was circulated and reviewed. A decision will be held during the December meeting with the final presented at the AGM.

Vestry Briefs cont'd

- Members' concerns included the placement of offertory envelops at the outer ends of the pews (done) and provisions of taxi fees for shut-ins. Budget concerns were expressed regarding the coverage of taxi fees.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

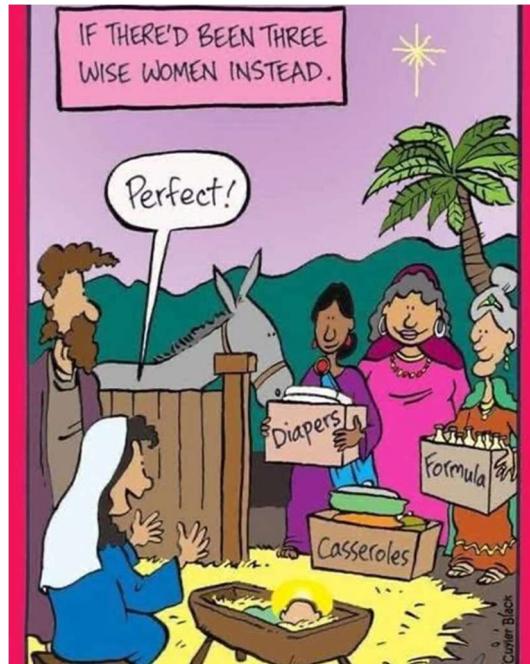
December 18, 2025

- November financial report was given. Income was generated through insurance rebate (\$11,807), Christmas Bazaar (\$5,500); continued Beyond Strawberries sales (\$1,313); catering (\$700) and Columbarium payment (\$2,000). The expenses for the month was \$34,572. The result was a surplus of \$1,028.
- The 2026 Operating Budget was amended as needed. Final copy will be dispersed to Vestry in the following weeks.
- The Pastoral Visiting Group in the formation stage with 2-3 members. Visits are increasing.
- *Christmas Around the World* was a success! Many thanks to all who participated in the Christmas program.
- Randy Semenchuk, financial advisor, attended the Financial Committee meeting on November 25, 2025. A draft framework for an Investment Policy which has been circulated.
- Members' concerns included a discussion item being added to the January meeting focusing on Communications, a committee that disbanded during COVID and has not been reactivated.
- Next meeting was set for January 20, 2026, which has since been changed to January 27, 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS, 2026

February 17	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Details to follow.
February 18	Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes & Eucharist – 9:30 a.m. Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion – 7:00 p.m.
February 22	Annual General Meeting Following the 10:00 a.m. service. Lunch will be served.

Mmmm, something to think about!
A little humour to brighten your day!



Join us for **FELLOWSHIP** following the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service. Come for the coffee and tea but stay for the people.

St. Paul's Cathedral Contact Information

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If you have comments or concerns regarding Cathedral Calling contact:
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