



Our Heavenly Father, we are thankful for the generation of believers that you led to begin and establish this congregation 180 years ago. By your grace they served, built, taught and prayed as they lived out the abundant life you gave them through your Son, their Saviour, Jesus. We thank you for their sacrificial giving that led to the marvelous sanctuary after only 30 years of congregational life. What you built in that generation has given every generation since a place to worship, learn, serve the needy, and reach out to the community with the Good News that still leads people out of darkness into your glorious light.

Holy Spirit, we are thankful that your power to bless others lives in us. You equip and guide your people to meet the challenges of every age. You have indeed been our help in ages past, and will be our hope for years to come. Remind us constantly of our many blessings, and increase our joy in following Jesus our Lord. May we, like the generations before us, see your way forward in the challenges of our times.

Can we practice  
thanksgiving today??



Jesus, thank you for the fullness of your love. You still heal us, constantly show us patience. You not only forgive us readily, you are giving us power to change – to live in your perfect love.

Thank you, God Almighty, for providing us with every good thing, for blessing us with hope and purpose. As we enjoy worship, feasting, friendship and joy this season of Thanksgiving, we will remember that you have done so much of this through the people who came before us. Now, since we are here in this moment, we pray that you will lead us mightily so that the generations yet to come will know your love, benefitting from all that you have purposed to accomplish for them through Christ working us.

To you, the only true God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – we give glory, now and forevermore.

Amen

With great thanks,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Brian Wilkie".

Rev. Brian Wilkie

In this anniversary year, our hearts can treasure the gifts of generations of disciples who served, built, taught, prayed and shared the Gospel, all in their worship of Jesus. We enjoy a 150 year old sanctuary with its basement classrooms that still serves for worship, learning and helping the poor today. In 1875, on the day the \$21,000 Sanctuary was dedicated to God's glory, the congregation raised \$9,000 to pay off what remained of the cost of the building. In the 1950's the congregation expanded the building for Christian Education, so that every child, youth and adult could learn about the love of God. Yet the building didn't meet that need – it was Christians full of hope and devotion, being a blessing.

As we celebrate the past, join us in working towards God's Future:

- ❖ **Pray** for an increasing impact of the Gospel in bringing people to faith, and bringing the faithful to greater love and service.
- ❖ **Join** us for Anniversary Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, with a Potluck Lunch following the service
- ❖ **Tell** us your story – reach back to the days you first came to St. Paul's, and remind us what it was like when you started here. Write, record or video your story so we can make a book of remembrance for this year.
  - If you have an older relative or friend, ask them to share their memories, or even record a conversation with them about it!
- ❖ Continue to **support** the financial needs of St. Paul's – One of the downsides of a 150 year old building is the cost of maintaining and improving it. In the recent past we have:
  - Repaired the brick work.
  - Replaced the heating controls
  - Repaired the parking lot
  - Made repairs to the Christian Education roof, avoiding an expensive replacement
- ❖ With the money previous generations have left to our reserve funds, we have been able to keep the building well maintained. Over the next years we expect to:
  - Upgrade our outside sign to a digital display
  - Bring our fire detection systems up to date.
  - Continue to replace windows around the church to improve our security and reduce heating costs
  - Improve accessibility with an internal ramp.
- ❖ Above All God is calling us to **engage** even more fully in the Worship, Outreach, Christian Education, Service, Evangelism, and Community Building that will bless the coming generations and prepare them to carry on God's work in Aylmer and the world for another 180 years – and beyond!