



ST. PHILIP'S ANGLICAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Edition: Easter

4 April 2021

Priest-In-Charge: The Rev. Don Davidson

Growing on the Vine: Rooted in Christ, Nourished by Prayer, Maturing in Faith

WE AIM TO BE A CHRISTIAN CENTRE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD, BRINGING MEMBERS CLOSER TO CHRIST, PROCLAIMING THE WORD AND MAKING HIS LOVE KNOWN TO ALL.

WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT: WELCOMING EVERYONE, HELPING THOSE IN NEED AND SUPPORTING THE ENDEAVOURS OF OTHERS.

Our New Website

(see article below)

Apr 02: Good Friday service (last before lockdown and online-only services)

Minister's message

Dear Friends,

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! These are words that have changed this world ever since the first Easter morning. These words have declared throughout time, that God ultimately wins. Love wins. Life wins.

This year, as I write this short note, I find myself still mostly working from home because of COVID protocols that call on us to isolate, and isolation is such a foreign thing to us. I found myself puzzling over what Easter said to us in the midst of isolation. I realized that we are certainly not the first people for whom the message of the resurrection came while they were isolated. The first disciples on the first Easter, we are told, were shut up in a place by themselves with all the windows and doors closed. And they were fearful. The reason for their isolation was different, but do not forget that they were in isolation.

And the resurrection happened, nonetheless. New life sprung up, nonetheless. Into the midst of their fear and isolation, stepped the risen Lord. And his first words to them, "Do not be afraid." These words are words of great hope for our day. The message of an empty tomb comes to us no matter the space we find ourselves in. Even in isolation, God wins. Love wins, life wins.

The Rev. Don Davidson, Interim Priest-in-Charge
Anglican Churches of Wellington, Milford and Waupoos, PEC

Wardens' report

Another year in the life of St Philip's has started in much the same way as the previous one ended with recorded services and zoom meetings. The pace picked up very quickly as planning for the Annual Vestry Meeting began and the Selection Committee was formed to begin the search for a new Incumbent.

A skilfully chaired Annual Meeting was led by Fr Don on February 28th. Where possible, officers filling the various positions agreed to remain for another year to promote continuity during the uncertainty of the pandemic. The opportunity to accept donations by Pre-authorized giving or etransfer was introduced with Bruce Walker as the lead.

Early in January, the Leadership Team was directed by Bishop Oulton to begin the process of preparing a profile of our church to be used in attracting a new Incumbent due to Rev Ada's ongoing health issues. Archdeacon Charles Morris has supported our work and that of St Andrews as we prepared a survey for priests and congregants, past and present, to complete. The results of these surveys formed the groundwork for our profile. At the present time, we are working with St Andrews and Archdeacon Charles in the preparation of a "bridge document" that will tie the two profiles together. It will include our collective input for the job description of a new Incumbent: how we will share his/her time and how the two parishes will work together with him/her. We sincerely thank the Selection Committee members for their genuine interest in and commitment to this work: Alfie Deyo, Deb Sawle, Paula Walker, Ted Foy and your wardens.

Other work continues with the ACW and Outreach Committee preparing a list of events we can hopefully hold during the upcoming months, and Elizabeth Hill providing weekly updates to our brilliant new website.

During this time, Fr Don has guided us with a steady hand, providing many opportunities for worship, prayer and cooking-themed Lenten presentations, either in person at St Philip's, or

online. We are most grateful for the time he is so willingly spending with us as we benefit from his many years of experience as an Anglican priest, his daily online prayers, as well as for the sharing of his other talents.

Sally Cowan and Josef Cihlar, Wardens

ACW report

Anglican Church Women and Workers is what we have always been at St. Philip's Church; the ladies meet to make plans and our husbands, children and friends gather together to carry out the event! We have been very fortunate in the past but COVID-19 has made changes to the ways in which we can put on a tea or meal, have a yard and rummage sale, see a movie, and meet and worship and praise the Lord in our church.

Currently, we have no set plans for future events but we do have some ideas that we hope can come to fruition. The annual Pork & Corn Roast with a tentative date of Wednesday, August 4th is quite a doable event. Gord and I have taken part in the Community Care's "meals for seniors" held once a month and picked up at the View (Picton Golf Club) parking lot. The meal is ordered in advance, so no guessing as to how much to prepare. Wearing a mask, we simply gave our name and popped the trunk lid. A still hot meal, consisting of soup, meat, potatoes, veggies, a roll and a dessert, all packaged in 3 recyclable cartons in a paper bag was put into the trunk (or backseat if you prefer). The meal is still warm enough to eat, but can be reheated if needed. St. Philip's driveway certainly does lend itself to this idea and any contact with our "guest" is minimal!! Another still vague idea is a car-boot-sale which would do away with our usual two-to-three days of setting up and pricing of sale items and clearing up and boxing items not sold.

The Canoe Trip will be happening on Monday May 24th and you will hear lots about it in the weeks to come. Please, if you have any ideas of your own as to projects or events, step forward and tell the wardens or me what's on your mind.

Today Gord and I received our first COVID-19 vaccines and I suppose all of us will be vaccinated and somewhat safe by mid-summer. Also today, the Health Department has set out some more stringent regulations and "will it never end?" goes through my mind. With our family and loved ones scattered across Canada and the U.S., I am ever thankful to be living here in the safest Health District in all of Ontario. And, at this time I am very thankful for being part of the St. Philip's church family and in a district that allows us to worship together. In the morning I will be going to the County Archives in Wellington to deliver 30 years of St. Philip's ACW Minutes to them for safekeeping! I have had the opportunity to briefly look through some of the notes and our group has had a very active presence over the years. Many, many thanks to Jean Burrows who was a remarkable Secretary to the ACW through all those years!

Although we are still unable to be with our families, I'd like to wish all of us a safe, happy, and blessed Easter!

Alfie Deyo, President

Outreach report

The outreach committee will meet at St. Philip's on Tuesday, April 13 at 10:00 am. It has been a while since we met and we hope to plan some events for the coming months.

We were able to host a virtual pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday. It was lovely to have Bob and Faye join us and to meet Fr. Don's wife, Becky. As usual the supper was a fundraiser for

DOORS (Diocese of Ontario Refugee Support). A cheque for \$225 has been sent to the diocese for this important ministry.

Once again our Lenten collection is for the Henry Budd College of Ministry. The college has made significant changes due to COVID. Classes are now on Zoom and they have added a YouTube channel with videos for people to worship and learn with. Our donations are due by Easter. Thank you to all for your generous support of this effort.

Thank you to those who helped with Easter cards on behalf of St. Philip's. Our card ministry continues to be active. If you have an occasion you feel we should acknowledge please speak to Sally or Paula.

St. Philip's continues to support the work of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. Their All Mothers and Children Count program has been extended until the end of June. All donations will be matched **6:1** by our federal government. All donations given before that time will be sent to support this program. Again thank you for your generous support.

We are now encouraged to give monetary donations to St. Philip's for the Picton United Church Food Bank. Please be sure to indicate this is where you wish your donation to go, thank you.

At our April 13 meeting we will complete plans for an Earth Day prayer circle to be held on April 22. We will consider plans for a canoe trip on May 24, the showing of "The Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts" in June and two outdoor summer movies, and a St. James Day walk and service with hopefully a picnic in July.

Everyone is welcome to come to an outreach meeting, please consider joining us and thank you for your support for our efforts.

Special notices

- Our daily prayer team continues to pray for the needs of our church, our community and our world. If you have a prayer request for a need or thanksgiving, or wish to join the team please speak to Paula
- Our altar guild is looking for new members. If you are interested in this rewarding ministry please speak to Paula or Shirley. Thank you.

Blessings and May the good news of Easter fill our hearts with hope!
Paula Walker, Chair

Budget update to April 01

Operating Account

Income \$11,394.87

Expenses \$14,052.03

Balance \$1,329.41

Memorial Account Balance \$2,489.36

We have paid the central treasurer \$10,000.00. We owe the central treasurer \$26,000.00 to be paid over the remainder of this year.

PWRDF has taken in \$1,485.00.

Food Bank donations: \$680.00

Refugee Fund (DOORS) donations: \$225.00

Henry Budd donations: \$265.00
All bills are paid.
Bruce Walker, Treasurer

St. Philip's has a new Website!

In March, 2021, we launched a new website, under www.stphilipchurch.ca. Previously we had been sharing the Parish of Marysburgh website with St. John's, Waupoos. It was time for an update, and with St. John's intent to move to a seasonal church it made sense to make to two websites. Information about St. John's can be found under parishofmarysburgh.ca.

The St. Philip's website is updated weekly for information about our Worship service, items of importance and interest to our parishioners, and information for those who might be looking for a church in The County. The display provides options for a white or a dark background, allowing a user to choose the preferred viewing format.

We are excited that there has been some good activity on our site – from March 21 to March 28 we have had 104 visitors, with 32 visitors on Saturday, March 27 alone. If you haven't done so already, please check out the website at www.stphilipchurch.ca. If you have any comments or suggestions please make them to contact@stphilipchurch.ca.

Elizabeth Hill

*St. Philip's Memorial Garden: a glimpse from history**

The coming of spring and Easter reminds me of our Memorial Garden project that took place in 2001 under the leadership of Wardens Bruce Walker and Arthur Cole, as part of an effort to "Beautify our Church Grounds". I do not recall a project at St. Philip's that met with such enthusiasm and support. At that time, we paved the parking lot and the driveway, planted shrubs and trees, and created a focal point with the installation of the Memorial Garden.

As stated in the Marysburgh Mirror of the day:

"The reason we are doing this is to provide a fitting spot where we can visit to remember those that are no longer with us but are forever in our hearts. Father, Mother, Brother, Sister, Daughter, Son, Aunt, Friend or anyone important to you. The memorial garden is for everyone, not only Anglicans, but those of any religion or faith, providing an important, permanent record for all time."

We received great support for this project and more than 40 names have been inscribed. The cost is \$400.00 per name and when several new ones are subscribed, we ask Heritage Monuments to engrave the names. Contact Bruce Walker or Bill Cowan if you wish to get involved. If you recall, the idea came from John Jackson who had read about a similar project in New York City at the church of St. John The Divine on 113th Street. Reverend Jay Wegman stated at that time:

"It offers solace to those in search of calm, a place to do some soul searching or to simply contemplate a flower. This week (Sept 16th 2001) many people sought its benches and the shade of its grapevine-covered arbors."

We thank John for suggesting this same type of project at St. Philip's.

At our most recent bible study, we studied the Samaritan woman visiting a well in the early morning hours and meeting our Lord. As the well is symbolic of a reservoir of faith and hope and life giving nourishment, so is a garden. We recall that Jesus often sought out a garden

where he would go to pray and there is none more memorable than his prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane in the days preceding His death. He prayed: “ My Father, if it is possible let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.” (Matthew 26: 36-46)

Spring is also a reminder of the fact that our Church grounds will soon need some care and attention. Back in 2001, Diane Walker designed the flower beds and supplied the product; the result speaks for itself. Every year we must tend and care for our Garden so that it can retain its beauty.

Happy Easter
Bill Cowan

Editor’s note: This is the second Easter Newsletter issued under COVID conditions. Although all the limitations of church attendance and personal contacts are painful, their observance also fits in the category of Loving Our Neighbour; this does make it easier for us to persevere.

Josef Cihlar < robat58@kos.net >

Photo credits: Elizabeth Hill, Josef Cihlar