



ST. PHILIP'S ANGLICAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Edition: Pentecost

25 August 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.



Before the church opened after the COVID-19 interruption, we had no lack of volunteers among our or guest members for ringing the bell every Sunday (Gord Deyo, Bruce Walker above; Mike Langlois, Padre Blair Ross below)



June 18: National Indigenous Peoples Day and Reconciliation service



20 June: First in- church service after the COVID-19 interruption, all Diocesan 'abundance of caution' rules in place: with Mike Langlois' music, Rev. Fran Langlois' sermon, and Paula Walker' Prayers of the people



1 July: Canada Day celebration – Focus on Reconciliation



25 July: 'Thank you Bruce Walker' social event



25 July: (above) Murray Guy, Bill Cowan, and Glendon Walker during Glendon's introduction as the next Treasurer

← Thank You to Bruce Walker for his many years of service as our Treasurer



This year, our Athol-South Marysburgh Public School's Grade 8 Valedictorian honorarium went to Rowan Colby



4 Aug: Pork and Corn Roast – COVID style

Minister's message

Dear Friends,

I couldn't help but notice that last night, the shadows fell across my living room a little earlier. Again this morning, I noted that I couldn't sit in my favourite reading chair in the window, and read without a light on until a little later. The days are once again getting shorter as this beautiful summer season moves along. In some ways, as someone who loves Summer, it makes me a little sad to see it happening; but at the very base of it, I took a certain comfort as I thought about it today.

That pattern of lengthening and shortening days, and the changing of the seasons in an orderly way is a source of great hope for me during these crazy days in which we live. It assures me that although we sense chaos, we are assured that God is still in control; although we experience uncertainty around us, the certainty of God's creation reminds us that the next chapter has yet to be written.

I pray that you will take time in the coming weeks to enjoy all that summer has yet to offer us, and that when Autumn comes, you will come to it with the same spirit. Most of all, I hope that you take heart in the fact that through difficult times and through good, God is with us. God bless you all.

Don+

The Rev. Don Davidson, Interim Priest-in-Charge

Anglican Churches of Wellington, Milford and Waupoos, PEC

Wardens' report

With the pandemic precautions easing a little, St Philip's activities are slowly changing to more closely resemble our former routine. Despite the limitations imposed by the COVID rules, our congregation generated ideas and vigour that seemed especially strong and impressive after the long period of a slowdown.

Following the discovery of the residential school graves in BC our Outreach Group organized a special event for Canada Day celebration which was well attended by people from St. Philip's, other County churches, and the community. This was followed by an Earth Day celebration of the gifts of the Creation, so timely in the year of alarming news about the worsening global environment.

We were especially pleased with the energy and excitement generated as the ACW planned, prepared and distributed the corn and barbecued pork meal with the help of all members of our congregation. And we hope for good weather for the already planned Yard and Rummage sale, to be held in a new location off the church property.

The work of the Selection Committee has eased off after many Zoom meetings. We are very proud of the Parish Profile that captured the 'spirit' of our church and people (now also at the church website <https://stphilipchurch.ca/st-philips-parish-profile>). The Committee also proposed questions to be used in our first applicant interview; the final version was jointly prepared by the wardens of St. Philip's and St. Andrew's, and the interview will place in the near future. The Committee was a pleasure to work with and we thank Paula Walker, Alfie Deyo, Deb Sawle and Ted Foy for their participation and thoughtful input.

We thank Bruce Walker and Glendon Walker for the smooth handover of Treasurer responsibilities on August 01, after Bruce's decision to retire from that part of his volunteer work

at St Philip's. He stepped up to the plate when both St Philip's and St John's were in need of a Treasurer and we are very grateful for all that he did in that role. (At this time, the future of St John's church is uncertain; it remains closed for this year as it has been since the beginning of the pandemic. It has a full slate of leadership officers, but no services are being held.)

Our grounds keeping team has kept the lawn well trimmed and spring yard work was done under the direction of the Building Committee. The Memorial Garden adds a nice splash of colour and beauty to the church grounds.

Since the restart of the South Marysburgh Mirror publication this spring, we have managed to promote the scheduled events and to report on past activities in the *Roots and Wings* column of each edition. So far, the Outreach Committee and Prayer Circle have prepared these columns; we hope other groups will help join this effort in the future. Our new website is a wonderful vehicle to further "spread the word" and it is exciting to see the feedback received through the 'Comment' option.

We give sincere thanks for everyone's contribution to the great work done by our small congregation, and in particular for the care shown for one another. Small Church, Good Church!

Sally Cowan and Josef Cihlar, Wardens

ACW report

WE DID IT!!

Our first take-out meal was a success thanks to the great weather and to everyone who supported this year's Pork and Corn Roast. Diane Walker and Sally Cowan did some shopping, some cooking, and all the organizing and a lot of work, and you (you know who you are) came out to help and you all deserve a round of applause and a big THANK YOU!! Harley's barbecued pork; the local buttery corn-on-the-cob and the wee new potatoes; the salads; and of course the homemade pies were all delicious and it was great to see the community members arriving to pick up their dinners. I am sure everyone enjoyed the floral beauty of our Memorial Garden that day!!

On August 28, a Yard and Rummage Sale will be held at Bill and Sally Cowan's house, again very different from our usual Yard Sales. When you read this Newsletter, the event will have taken place and our wish for that day is for more success. As of this date, the ACW have not planned any further events for this year but we are seeing light at the end of the tunnel and who knows what may happen.

Personally, I am finding the world news frightening with forest fires, earthquakes, tropical storms, landslides, volcanic eruptions, and severe drought reported daily. The Taliban has again taken control of Afghanistan and it is proving difficult to help those trying to leave. Haitian people are having to cope with another earthquake and a hurricane at the same time. Here in the County, August has been a very hot and humid month, we have had another huge influx of tourists, and now a 4th COVID-19 wave is threatening us -- but still, we are so safe here and we have so much to be thankful for. Thanks be to God!!

Alfie Deyo, President

Outreach report

Early this spring we made a new plan for the annual canoe trip. We were still to launch from Harley and Karen's but only paddle part way down Black River. We would then return to the Guernseys'. From there we were to come to the church for snacks and fellowship. The spring pandemic lockdown caused the planned outing to be cancelled; all being well, we will give this new plan a try next May! Two outdoor summer movies and a St. James Day walk have also been postponed until 2022. When it is safe to do so, we also look forward to resuming our potluck supper movie nights.

A few members of the Outreach Committee met to watch the Anglican Church film - "The Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts" (also available on the web, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQwKB1hn5E8>). It is quite helpful in providing insight into our current need for reconciliation in Canada.

Despite the lockdown which started on Easter Sunday, our Lenten collection was able to raise \$360 for the Henry Budd College of Ministry. Thank you all for your generous support of this worthy cause.

In April we were able to have a Prayer Circle event online in honour of the Earth Day. Thank you to Elizabeth Hill for preparing a very beautiful prayer service focusing on caring for God's Holy Creation. Each month Elizabeth prepares the prayers and everyone is welcome to join the Circle at any time. We generally meet at St. Philip's on the third Thursday morning of the month, and the date is also announced in the weekly bulletin. In June the Prayer Circle event was held in honour of National Indigenous Peoples Day and focused on the lost children of the residential schools. Elizabeth expanded this focus for July 1/ Canada Day to include prayers for reconciliation. Members of our community were invited and it was wonderful to be able to pray with our broader community.

Bishop Michael's announcement that St. George's Cathedral's church bells would be rung 215 times at the service of reconciliation on June 18 to honour those buried in unmarked graves at the Kamloops residential school, inspired us to do so as well at St. Philip's. We invited St. Andrew's, South Bay United Church and others in our community to join us and were very pleased with a good turnout for this small gesture; a number of people expertly rang 215 times the St. Philip's bell (originally a 1922 gift to the rebuilt church by The Young People of St. Philip's). We hope to find many more ways to promote a path to reconciliation and healing for Indigenous Peoples in our land.

In June we once again provided a monetary award of \$100 to the valedictorian of the grade 8 graduating class at Athol-South Marysburgh School. This year's recipient was Rowan Colby. You are invited to read his thank you card which is posted on the bulletin board in the Hall.

We are now encouraged to continue giving monetary donations to the Picton United Church Food Bank through St. Philip's. Please be sure to indicate this is where you wish your donation to go. Thank you so much for your support.

Thank you to all for your ongoing support of our Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. The last Sunday of October we are hoping to have a guest speaker from the PWRDF join us for our service to share news with us of the wonderful work they continue to do. Please hold their good efforts in your prayers.

Please check our website at www.stphilipchurch.ca (always up-to-date) for information on upcoming events. These are also listed in our weekly email bulletin.

Thank you to your all for the many ways you support outreach of St. Philip's.

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 a 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 Shirley or Paula, thank you. We would also like to give a big thank you to Elizabeth Hill for her help with the flower ministry!

Blessings,

Paula Walker, Chair

2021 Financial update to 31 July

Operating Account:

Budget: \$49,300; Income: \$28,324; Expenses: \$25, 344 (**54%**).

Mission:

Budget \$4000; Income:\$6,655 (**166%**).

Memorial Account:

Income: \$ 2574.25; Expenses: \$3700.41; Balance: \$2430.95.

Bruce Walker, Treasurer

Building Committee Report

This summer we have been in the ‘maintenance’ mode, with cutting grass and watering flowers and our maple tree as the main activities. Under Leigh Scott’s leadership we are planning to repaint the parking lot in the near future. Thanks to all who maintained the lawns during the summer.

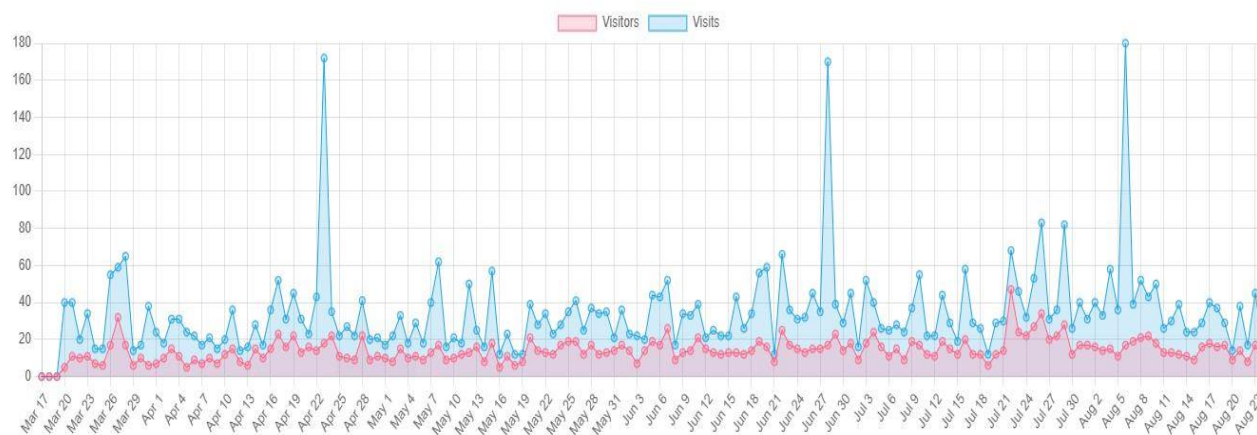
Ted Foy, Chair

St. Philip’s Website Update

As you may recall we launched the new St. Philip’s website in March 2021. So you might ask, six months later: do websites work? Well, ours sure does! Since March 17 we have had 2,276 visits to our site. Now these are definitely not 2,276 different people, but the fact remains that on 2,276 occasions someone has viewed our site:

Summary		
Online Users:	0	
	Visitors	Visits
Today:	11	23
Yesterday:	17	45
Last 7 Days (Week):	110	243
Last 30 Days (Month):	514	1,328
Last 365 Days (Year):	2,276	5,556
Total:	2,276	5,556

The average number of visits to the St. Philip's website is between 10 and 15 every day – which is a good number for a small church in Milford! The blue line in the chart below indicates the number of visits – this means that people are coming to our Home page, then going to other pages. This is also a very good thing! Diving down into more of the details, we know that among these have been 109 visits to our Worship page, and 106 views of our Pork & Corn Roast announcement.



All this is very good news, as we share with our community and the world our love of God and His creation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Of course, it isn't all about numbers – it's about our ministry. The St. Philip's website gives us an opportunity to tell the members of our church, the people of our community, and the wider world who we are, what we are passionate about, and what we are doing or planning to fulfil our mission. So if there is a particular topic, event or story you think we should be talking about, please send me an email to elizabethhillpec@outlook.com or talk to me at church – I would love to know your ideas!

Elizabeth Hill, Webmaster

The Bible saved the day

The following anecdote, honoring my Puritan heritage, has been handed down through family tradition. The original source was a descendant Samuel Spofford, son of the hero of my story, and whose great age, extending from 1653 to 1743, made him a living link between the first and the last generation.

John Spofford came to New England from Yorkshire England in 1638 on the ship “John of London” to escape religious persecution. Many thousands of Puritans, starting with the Mayflower in 1625, made the same journey. The Spoffords settled in Rawley, Massachusetts, and changed the spelling to Spafford. Ironically after the War of Independence his descendants settled in the Cherry Valley area of Prince Edward County.

During a time of great scarcity of corn, probably from the drought of 1662, John Spofford, then living with his family at Rowley and being with his neighbours much pinched by the famine, went all the way to Salem to buy corn. A shipload of corn had lately arrived there but the owner, foreseeing greater scarcity and higher prices, refused to open his store and commence dealing it out. Spofford pled the necessity of himself and his neighbours, but his arguments were unheeded, and he had only the prospect of returning home without being able to carry bread to his suffering family. After every plea was exhausted to no effect on the heartless merchant, he sternly cursed him to his face! The merchant, astonished to hear such language, had him arrested instantly, and arraigned before a magistrate for profane cursing and swearing. The accused, nothing daunted, informed the magistrate that he had not cursed the merchant profanely but religiously, and producing a Bible, he read from Proverbs xi 26: “*He that withholdeth corn the people shall curse him, but blessing be on the head of him that selleth it.*” The authority was deemed decisive, the accused was discharged and, in accordance with the summary process of those days, the magistrate ordered that the merchant should open his store and sell him as much corn as he desired at the current price.

John Spofford (Spafford) is my 10th great grandfather.

William G. (Bill) Cowan UE

Editor’s note: Although still hampered by COVID rules, this newsletter shows that St. Philip’s congregation continues to fulfil its mission with determination, overcoming obstacles with creativity, enthusiasm and perseverance.

Josef Cihlar < robat58@kos.net >

Photo credits: Fran Langlois, Elizabeth Hill, Paula Walker, Josef Cihlar