



ST. PHILIP'S ANGLICAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Edition: Easter

10 April 2022

Priest-In-Charge: Canon Nancy Beale



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.



Feb 12: StP
Food Drive



Dec 29: Bruce Walker
ensuring lighting is with LED



Feb 13: Worship in person AGAIN!





Feb 20: Bishop Peter visiting



Mar 13:
StP Vestry



Minister's message

I recently watched a video on You Tube from a number of years ago - it was the people of St. Philip's singing Amazing Grace. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces.... But the thing that has been rattling around in my head since seeing the video was the title, "*St. Philip's Church in Milford, The Little Church that Could.*" Oh my goodness YES!!!!!! When I first began to pray about coming here, I knew you were a lovely little parish.... But I had NO IDEA how amazing you all are! What an absolute gem of a parish! Since arriving in the parish you have certainly shown the spirit of who you are and the beauty of your faith. You welcomed me with open arms, and have begun to show me the amazing St. Philip's spirit! We celebrated a lovely Christmas together, prior to the January COVID lockdown.

Throughout the lockdown you once again reached out to one another and checked in, as well as humouring me with allowing me to do my "wandering preacher" videos from various beautiful places here in the County. Through Lent, we have gathered not only on Sundays, but also on Thursday nights to pray evening prayer together, and week by week extinguish another candle on our Tenebrae table as we move ever closer to the darkness of Good Friday. I am very much looking forward to sharing our first Holy Week and Easter together.

Something else that we have been doing these last several weeks, is joining with voices around the world to pray for peace in Ukraine. We have set up our peace candle, with a basket of rocks from the County. Whenever we gather folks have been selecting a rock, praying for peace, and placing the rock at the foot of the candle. A bit of our solid and beautiful land - our holy ground, if you will, to pray for peace elsewhere in God's sacred creation.

As time goes on, and the war in Ukraine comes to an end, we will continue to pray for peace in the world, and light our peace candle. If perhaps on some Sunday, you find yourself feeling unsettled or distressed, I would encourage you to take home one of the rocks from our peace candle.... "Take a little peace with you".... A solid and physical reminder of the prayers for peace - and a stone that's been held while someone else has prayed for peace.

Beyond our peace candle and prayers for peace, I would like to challenge each of us to remember Jesus' call to pray for our enemies. In your prayers for peace, have you prayed for Mr. Putin's family? Have you offered a prayer for Mr. Putin himself? Have you prayed that he might find peace in his heart? Not an easy thing to do, but the work of faith is sometimes challenging.

God's love is more powerful than wars and hatred. Through our prayers, let's send God's love to all the people involved in the conflict in Ukraine.... including to Mr. Putin himself. May God's love soften his heart.

We are Easter people! As we head into Easter, may we once again remember that God's love is more powerful than death.... even death on a cross. Let there be peace on earth. God's peace, that passes all understanding. Happy Easter!

Your sister in Christ,

Canon Nancy Beale+

Anglican Churches of St. Andrew's and St. Philip's

Wardens' report

Under the leadership of Canon Nancy, we held a very successful and well attended Annual Vestry meeting on March 13th. We celebrated many 2021 accomplishments - in spite of all the interruptions - and we look forward with great optimism to another busy year with fewer COVID obstacles in our way. Vestry reports from all areas of responsibility indicated a busy and successful past year and we are very grateful for the devotion shown by all group leaders. Reinvigorated under Canon Nancy's leadership, the detailed 2021 Vestry report provided ample evidence of our hard work in the various areas, describing a small but vibrant community of believers who are focused outward to the needs of the community - both near and far away.

The congregation expressed our deep gratitude and thanks to Bill Cowan and to Bruce Walker for serving many years respectively as the Parish and the St. Philip's Treasurers. We are also thankful to Deb Sawle for joining the leadership after being elected as the Deputy Warden, and for serving as the Vestry Clerk.

In spite of the relaxing of pandemic guidelines by the province and the diocese, St Philip's congregation has voted to continue with mandatory masking during church services, except while reading, preaching or at the Eucharist. On Palm Sunday we begin participating in the Eucharist at the Communion rail with extra precautions in the use of hand sanitizer and distancing. If attendance numbers require it, we will remove the barriers to pews that have been

closed as part of COVID-19 measures, and everyone is reminded to stay at home if feeling unwell.

As we reach the end of the first quarter of 2022, we look forward with excitement and enthusiasm to the various planned events of the Outreach Committee and ACW. It is always fun to work together as we support those in need, offer social events to the community and raise funds to keep our operation in a good financial position. We have exciting times ahead as we anticipate visits from Bishop Oulton in May and again in October for a rescheduled 100th Anniversary event.

Following Canon Nancy's diligent planning with the Diocese and the congregation, we look forward to having St John's members worship with us as we support them in the deconsecration of their beautiful home church.

Sally Cowan and Josef Cihlar, Wardens

ACW report

Two years ago when the COVID-19 pandemic was announced, none of us could have foreseen the terrible loss of life throughout the world and the changes to the way of life we had grown accustomed to since. We are now seeing the extreme results of global warming, the return to Afghanistan of the Taliban and the starvation of the people, Russia's horrific war against Ukraine, and here at home the sorrow brought by the hundreds of unmarked graves of Indigenous Canadian children. Due to ongoing pandemic restrictions, our ACW regrettably has not been actively meeting or holding events. However, we are planning to meet together on Thursday morning, April 21st in the church hall; and I am very pleased to report that Elizabeth Hill has agreed to be the new ACW Secretary!!

Spring 2022 has officially arrived, but our local weather has not yet co-operated with Mother Nature this year. When Jean Burrows, our ACW Secretary for 30+ years, moved from the County, she passed to me many booklets, newsletters, pamphlets and so on that are simply too "good" to be relegated to trash. I am copying here a plan for a vegetable garden, one you'll probably like to cultivate:

*"First, plant five rows of peas: **Preparedness, promptness, perseverance, politeness and prayer.** Next to them, plant three rows of squash: **Squash gossip, squash criticism, squash indifference.** Then, put in five rows of lettuce: **Let us be faithful, let us be unselfish, let us be loyal, let us love one another, let us be truthful.***

*No garden is complete without turnips and this garden should have: **Turn up for church, turn up with a smile, turn up with a new idea, turn up with real determination**".*

This year many of us, at long last, will be enjoying the season with our families and I would like to wish everyone a blessed and happy Easter!!

Alfie Deyo, President

Outreach report

Despite being in another lockdown at the beginning of the year, outreach at St. Philip's had a good start in 2022. In January, Canon Nancy suggested a drive-by food drive and on February 12 we held "Share the Love". The focus was on cleaning items and the event was held in our

driveway from 9 until 11 am. Despite the chilly weather, a good number of people from our local community showed up with generous donations which were delivered to the Picton United Church County Food Bank later that morning.

The food drive was such a success that we will be holding another. This one, called “Spring Cleaning” will be held in our parking lot on Saturday, April 30 from 9 until 11. Check out the website and please help to spread the word. Once again, we will focus on cleaning products such as laundry soap, bath soap, and other hygiene products and cleansers; these products are always appreciated but often in short supply. Food and monetary donations are always welcome as well.

Before that on Friday, April 22, our prayer circle will have a special time of prayer for the Earth as it will be Earth Day 2022. We hope members of our community will join us and that following our time of prayer we will have a time of fellowship with discussion and refreshments. Weather permitting this event will be held outside. Please bring a lawn chair!

Plans are being made to build a picnic table for our garden. We are preparing to resume our annual canoe trip, to be held on Monday, May 23. We hope to have all the canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddle boards in the water by 11 am. Once again, Harley and Karen Guernsey are offering their yard for a launch site. This time we will paddle to a halfway mark and return to Harley and Karen’s, and then come up to St. Philip’s for hot dogs and lemonade.

As Queen Elizabeth marks her 70th year on the throne, we plan to celebrate this occasion with a tea on Saturday, June 11 at 2 pm. More information will be provided in the weeks to come.

St. Philip’s continues to support the work of our Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund. Judy Cole has offered to take over the position of parish representative.

Elizabeth Hill is our new contact with the Henry Budd College of Native Ministry. She has contacted the College administrator and on recent Sundays has been giving us highlights of the role and the history of the college. As in past years, our Lenten collection is for this College.

At some point this spring we hope to begin again hosting movie nights, starting with a film and bringing your own snacks. Hopefully, we will be soon able to include a potluck supper.

Thank you all for supporting the work of our outreach committee and please feel welcome to join us at any meeting. These will be announced in the church, in our weekly bulletin and on our website. Please remember to check our website for all the current news of St. Philip’s.

Paula Walker, Chair

2021 Financial update to 31 March

The first three months of the 2022 financial statements have demonstrated just how generous the people of St. Philip’s really are! You may recall that in September 2021, the Wardens made a call for parishioners to consider a 12% increase in donations to the St. Philip’s Operations. This call was to help support our new ministry requirements, and the call was heard! Here’s a chart that you may find helpful, and we thank you in advance to keeping up this commitment (values less than zero are shown with brackets):

ST PHILIP'S OPERATION DONATIONS

	2021	21 less '20	%	2022 Projection	2022 Actual	OVER (Under)
January	\$ 1,888	\$ <u>(829)</u>	-31%	\$ 2,115	\$ 3,410	\$ 1,295
February	\$ 3,368	\$ <u>(1,507)</u>	-31%	\$ 3,772	\$ 5,990	\$ 2,218
March	\$ 3,788	\$ 18	0%	\$ 4,242	\$ 4,165	\$ <u>(77)</u>
April	\$ 3,548	\$ 988	39%	\$ 3,974		
May	\$ 2,263	\$ <u>(127)</u>	-5%	\$ 2,535		
June	\$ 3,418	\$ 468	16%	\$ 3,828		
July	\$ 3,238	\$ 768	31%	\$ 3,627		
August	\$ <u>3,543</u>	\$ <u>(187)</u>	-5%	\$ <u>3,968</u>	\$ -	\$ -
SUB TOTAL	\$ 25,054	\$ <u>(408)</u>	-2%	\$ 28,060	\$ 13,565	\$ 3,436
September	\$ 3,578	\$ 798	29%	\$ 4,007		
October	\$ 4,173	\$ 1,548	59%	\$ 4,674		
November	\$ 3,073	\$ <u>(786)</u>	-20%	\$ 3,442		
December	\$ <u>6,087</u>	\$ <u>317</u>	5%	\$ <u>6,817</u>		
	\$ 16,911	\$ 1,877	12%	\$ 18,940		
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 41,965	\$ 1,469	4%	\$ 47,000		12%

And then there is St. Philip's outward-looking generosity. For the first 3 months of 2022 we have collected \$2,595 for PWRDF, including \$910 for their Ukrainian Fund, \$415 for the Picton Foodbank, and \$565 for Henry Budd College. These are numbers that we should truly be proud of!

Our 2022 expenses are on track to the approved budget, although our Hydro expense is a bit higher than expected. This is something the Wardens are looking into.

Respectfully submitted,

Glendon Walker, Treasurer / Elizabeth Hill, Systems Analyst

Building Committee Report

With building access no longer restricted by COVID-19 measures, our facilities have continued to support weekly services, occasional meetings, and mid-week services during the Lent without difficulties. When snowfalls happened, Jamie Miller cleared the parking lot in a timely way so the access to the church was not compromised.

The main 'change' was removal of the night light on the pole between the church and the road. With sufficient illumination at both entrances and two streetlights nearby, this was no longer needed. The removal saves St. Philip's money for electricity, and it made it possible to make more visible the beautiful stained-glass windows our church is fortunate to have.

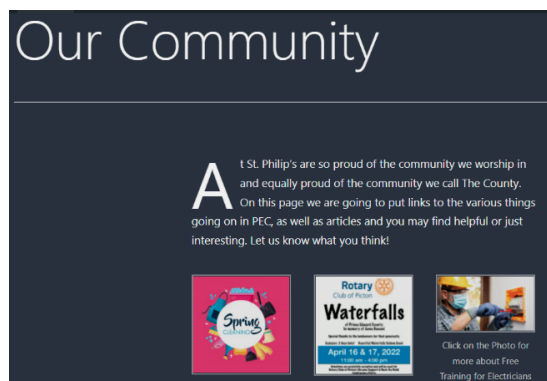
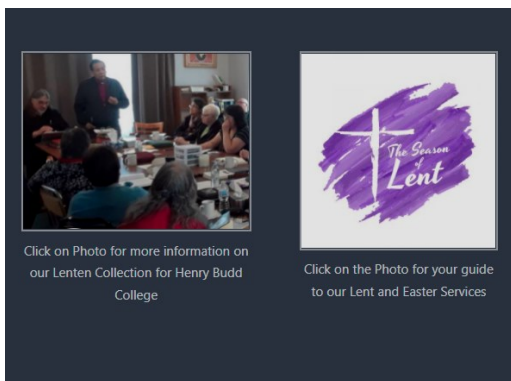
Ted Foy, Chair

St. Philip's Communications

For a family-sized church, St. Philip's has a pretty broad communication approach, which includes our parishioners, our friends and family, and our community. We like to keep our parishioners up-to-date on what is going on at our church, and also about our Outreach plans. And, importantly, we also like to let the community we live in know what is going on – we think this keeps us relevant and in touch.

Our weekly communication, “Growing on the Vine” is the touchstone regarding what to expect on the upcoming Sunday and the following week at the church, as well as a way for people to plan for future events and happenings. This bulletin is circulated to our parishioners, past alumni and friends of St. Philip's, and St. John's Waupoos parishioners.

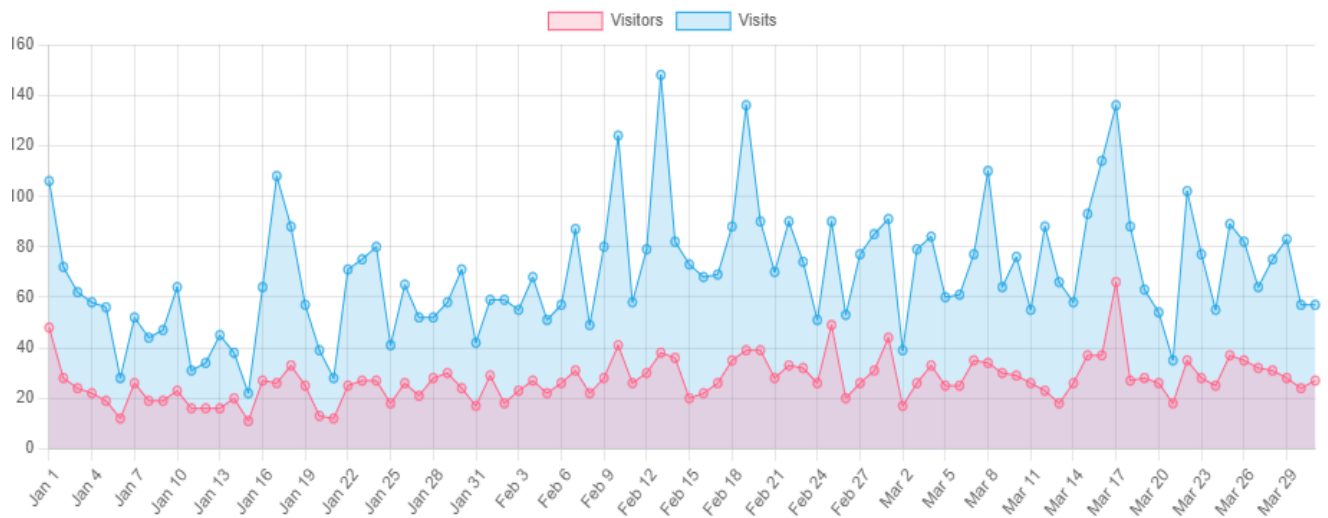
And then there is our website, www.stphilipchurch.ca. We keep our website up to date on a



weekly basis about the upcoming weeks' service, as well as posting the Sunday service video and the Prayers of the People on Sunday afternoons. The “Welcome” page (also known as a landing page) describes what is currently going on at St. Philip's.

Having realized that there is a need to provide information and links to events in our community, we have added a new page to our website, “Our Community”. On this page we post interesting things going on in - you guessed it - our community! If you know of something that we should post on Our Community, send your suggestion along to contact@stphilipchurch.ca.

We have impressive daily traffic on our website, with the number of “Visitors” (this would be individuals coming to our site) and “Visits” (the specific pages people are going to) remaining high over the period January – March 2022. We should be pleased with this level of activity, as it demonstrates that our website is informative, relatable and easy to use!



And lastly, let's review our Social Media presence. We are posting our recorded services on the [St. Philip's Facebook page](#) each week. This is a great way for people who get their information through Facebook to learn more about St. Philip's. If you are a Facebook user, why don't you follow us [@stphilipschurchmilford](#)!

And we are also on Instagram, the same address as Facebook, [stphilipschurchmilford](#). This is where we talk about what we are doing in the community, for instance the food drives we have been holding for the Picton Foodbank.

And then of course we have our Newsletters – no need to say much about this as you are reading one right now!

Elizabeth Hill, Webmaster

Our Memorial Garden

The coming of spring and Easter remind 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. Philips that met with such enthusiasm and support. That year, we paved the parking lot and driveway, planted shrubs and trees, and established the the Memorial Garden as a focal point. As stated in The Marysburgh Mirror of the day:

“The reason we are doing this is to provide a fitting spot where we can stop 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.”

The idea first came from the late 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 the 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 arbours.”* We are grateful to John for suggesting this same sort of project at St. Philips.

We received great support for this project and more than 50 names have been inscribed since. The current inscription cost is \$400.00 per name and when several names are subscribed, we ask Heritage Monuments to engrave them.

At one of our bible studies, we discussed 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 that our Church grounds will soon need some care and attention. Diane Walker, back in 2001, designed the flower beds, selected and supplied the product and the result speaks for itself. Every year we must tend and care for our Garden so that it can retain its beauty.

Contact me if you wish to have name(s) inscribed this year. Only a few spaces remain available at this time.

Happy Easter!

Bill Cowan UE (613-476-6065)

*Reflections on Luke 13:1-9**

“He came looking for fruit on it and found none.” What now shall we do?

News travels fast when there is a tragedy; then and now. Here we have some Galileans – Jesus’ own people! - who were offering sacrifices when attacked by Pilate’s military police. Those present were quick to tell Jesus all about it. Jesus knew the hearts and minds of the crowd around him. He understood their thinking, their understanding that if you were afflicted by disease, hardship or tragedy then obviously you were a sinner and God was punishing you. On the other hand, if you were healthy, wealthy and had good luck then you found favour with God. I think that that thought is somewhat prevalent even today. Some of us have probably said or have heard

it said “What have I done to deserve that?” But we also recall from Romans (3:23): “...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

When told about the tragedy, Jesus shows no sign of hatred or vengeance. Instead, he questions the crowd, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? And what about the eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?”

Jesus responds to his own question with a resounding NO! No! Definitely not! Acts of aggression are acts of aggression. Accidents are accidents. Those affected by either are not the victims of a punishing God. The cause of a person’s death is not an indication of how that person lived.

Jesus gives a warning: “unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” We all know that we are going to die but Jesus says we do not have to perish eternally. He is offering hope and salvation to all who repent.

Jesus tells the parable of the fig tree which is not bearing fruit. The fig tree represents Israel, God’s chosen people who continuously and constantly turn away from him. And here they are being offered yet another chance to be fruitful, instead of wasting soil and being unproductive.

And like the fig tree, we are not always fruitful, but God in Jesus is always patient and willing to give us one more, **any number of more**, chances to produce fruit. We are to be fruitful in our doings in the name of the Lord. But just as the fig tree needs tending and nurturing to bear fruit, so does our spiritual health need the same. Through Scripture readings, prayer, meditation, spending time with the Lord, we can grow and be fruitful in relationship with God through his son, Jesus.

In second Corinthians (5:19-20) we read “*in Christ, God is reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ.*”

A friend of mine often sends me quotes from the Society of Saint John the Evangelist. The one I received yesterday seems to speak to being ambassadors for Christ. “*May we all be the incarnation of God’s love, the channel of God’s forgiveness and the messenger of God’s hope and healing.*”

God’s grace comes with expectation of results. If we sometimes find ourselves falling short of these expectations - and I can certainly attest to that! - we are not to despair. There is always hope. God is ready with forgiveness and many second chances. God calls us to experience and be transformed by his grace. We are free to accept or reject his gift. We are given every chance to respond. May we have the courage to answer with a resounding YES! Amen

Rev. Fran Langlois

* Provided at Editor’s request

Editor’s note: Another year, another beginning, another opportunity to live out our faith and commitment in service to God and ‘neighbour’

Josef Cihlar < robat58@kos.net >

Photo credits: Elizabeth Hill, Josef Cihlar