



ST. PHILIP'S ANGLICAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Edition: Christmas

11 December 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.



100th Anniversary of
rebuilt St. Philip's
Church 23 Oct





Memorial Dedication 28 Aug





Tolling the St.
Philip's bell for
the Queen
Sept 09



Minister's message

My brothers and sisters in Christ:

As I write this Christmas letter, it is late November, in the midst of a rather impressively snowy Saturday and it sure is **"Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas!"**

What an exciting time of year it is, planning to gather with family and friends, perhaps baking, shopping, wrapping gifts, and putting up the tree. The season of Christmas certainly has its traditions and practices that permeate most of our society.

Today though I would like to remind you of our spiritual roots – Advent, (the four weeks leading up to Christmas), and Christmas itself – are sacred seasons in our Christian tradition. During Advent, we take a theme each week to help us to prepare for the coming of Messiah. Hope, Peace, Joy and Love are the four themes traditionally used through Advent. In our online study and reflection group, we will be taking time to think about and talk about these themes, as we focus on some of the characters that lead us to Christmas - Zechariah & Elizabeth, John the Baptist, Mary, and Joseph.

Like last year, I would invite you, during these Advent days, to take some time in quiet and prayer. To prepare your heart and soul to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Messiah. Pray about your hopes, your yearnings for peace, your joys, and your love. Invite God into those tender places in your heart and in your life, and as you open your heart to God, over these next several weeks, you may well find that you are ready to kneel at the manger and welcome the baby Jesus in a wholly different way this year.

I would strongly encourage you to join us in prayer each Sunday, at 11 a.m., as our church family prepares to celebrate the coming of our Saviour. Then, come on ***Christmas Eve at 5 p.m.*** or on ***Christmas Day at 10 a.m.*** and join us in full song and prayer as we once again welcome the baby Jesus into our midst.

Prayer and worshipping together, help add such a richness and a depth to our Christmas celebrations. I would like to invite you to come home to your parish family again this year and celebrate Advent and Christmas with us.

Wishing you a holy and sacred Advent and Christmas season.

Your sister in Christ,

Canon Nancy Beale+, Anglican Churches of St. Andrew's and St. Philip's

Wardens' report

It has been such a pleasure to have some sense of “normal” as activities at St Philip’s have been resuming. Caution is still required as we follow the Diocesan COVID precautions, strongly preferring that masks be worn, and continuing the weekly cleaning protocols. We also ask that you consider keeping your coat with you in your seat during services and please stay at home if you feel unwell.

The 100 (+2) Anniversary Celebration was a great success, thanks to the efforts of many over the last 2 years of preparation. The three committees, History, Future and Service Preparation, first met in March of 2020 and accomplished so much without losing enthusiasm as delay after delay occurred. It was wonderful to visit with and hear from many friends and former clergy who have supported us over the years. A lot of fond memories were shared as we experienced our little church bursting at the seams. The Anniversary service program serves as a valuable souvenir of this special celebration.

Previous parishioners, descendants of former parishioners and friends of St. Philip’s joined us on another well-attended occasion, the dedication of the recently deceased parishioners whose names have now been inscribed on the Memorial Garden monuments. A solemn opportunity to remember the lives, contributions and friendships of those who preceded us, and who did much to keep the church alive and thriving so that we can now benefit from all it offers us. The short recollections by their descendants were especially poignant.

The Leadership Team continues to meet monthly. During January we will be making plans for our Annual Vestry Meeting in February, with budget proposal preparation scheduled early in that month. We plan to dedicate time at the Annual Vestry Meeting to considering service time change that would see a two-month trial in May and June 2023. This change would allow Canon Nancy to preside at St. Philip’s three out of four Sundays every month. Remember to share your thoughts or concerns about the proposal with any member of the Leadership Team.

Many thanks to everyone who works behind the scenes to keep our building and grounds in good shape, our group activities up and running so smoothly, and the business aspects of our organization up to standard. We look forward to 2023 being another year of working together, not only because we have fun doing it, but also because it is our way of serving those in need in our community and in other parts of the world.

Best wishes for Christmas to everyone,
Sally Cowan and Josef Cihlar, Wardens

ACW report

It is hard to believe that 2022 is coming to a close while we are still wearing masks, practicing safe distances and hearing that our friends and neighbours are ill and isolating with COVID-19! Let us hope and pray that our lives will soon return to a (likely new) normal.

The ACW has had a fairly busy autumn with meetings, gatherings and baking for them. We did hold a Yard & Rummage Sale on October 1st which was not as successful as we might wish, partly due to poor planning and advertising on our part; but a sincere thank you to all who participated in any way! On the 4th of October, we co-hosted the ACW Regional AGM which was held at St. Andrew’s Church in Wellington. The meeting was well attended and chaired by our new President, Pam Park; our Diocesan President, Maureen Sills, was absent due to illness with COVID-19; eucharist was celebrated with Bishop Michael Oulton. Special honours were given to 29 members (four from the Parish of Marysburgh) who sadly had passed away since our last Annual General Meeting in 2019. Again, thanks to all who baked and helped in the day!

I know all will agree that the 100th Anniversary Celebration was a great success – it was just wonderful to see so many past clergy, congregation members and friends!

At our November meeting, we decided to make a donation to the Angel Tree program, a part of the Children's Foundation that supports children and families here in Prince Edward County. As you know, we reached out to the rest of the congregation of St. Philip's to help us in achieving our target donation of \$500. To all who have responded, thank you, thank you so much!!

The ACW will not meet again until January 19th, 2023 – we wish you a happy, holy and blessed Christmas and all good things in the coming year! God bless us all!!

Alfie Deyo, President

Outreach report

The outreach committee met on November 3 and since then we have sent Christmas cards on behalf of the congregation.

On November 13 Sophie Kiwala, Chair of the Diocesan Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, spoke to us during our worship service. She had recently attended a national event in Toronto, and she told us about the good work the PWRDF continues to do. She spoke passionately about the life-saving solar suitcase project which supplies light for mothers giving birth in Mozambique.

Our annual White Gift Sunday was held on November 27. The gifts have been delivered and gratefully accepted by the Picton Salvation Army to be used in their community Christmas gift baskets.

We continue to host potluck supper movie nights. The most recent was held on December 1. The next one will be in January and will be announced in church and in our weekly bulletin. You are always welcome to bring friends and to come to the supper, the movie or both!

On Friday December 9, Canon Nancy will lead a Christmas service of Holy Communion at McFarland Home. We are invited to join them, and St. Philip's will provide cake and ice cream for a time of fellowship.

We plan to host Saturday morning talks. The first talk (January 28) will feature Bruce and Paula Walker's presentation on their recent pilgrimage in Portugal and Spain. The date will be announced in church, in the bulletin and on the website.

At the congregational meeting on Sunday, December 4, Josef Cihlar told us about the Anglican Communion Forest Project. We agreed to get involved. Bishop Michael has called all churches to plant 160 trees in honour of our diocese's upcoming anniversary. This will be part of our response to the fifth Mark of Mission "*To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.*" A special meeting will be called early next year to begin the planning. This will also be announced in church and in the weekly bulletin.

Thank you all for your generous support of outreach activities.

Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a most Happy New Year.

Paula Walker, Chair

2021 Financial update to 30 November

We presented the November 2022 year-to-date financial statements on Sunday, December 4, and we were pleased to report that St. Philip's is in a good place financially. The Operating Revenue for the previous 11-month period was \$54,933, with Operating Expenses of \$52,026, meaning our revenue is greater than our expenses by \$2,907. Thus, from the point of view of parishioner's support for St.

Philip's Operations, the donations received are exceeding the 2022 budget. You may recall that in September 2021 Sally Cowan made a call for parishioners to consider a 12% increase in donations to the St. Philip's Operations. The above numbers show that this call was heard! You may find helpful the following table which shows that the end of November, we have already met our 2022 target. We thank you in advance for continuing your commitment to support St. Philip's!

	2021	21 less '20	%	2022 Projection	2022 Actual	OVER (Under)
January	\$ 1,888	\$ (829)	-31%	\$ 2,115	\$ 3,410	\$ 1,295
February	\$ 3,368	\$ (1,507)	-31%	\$ 3,772	\$ 5,890	\$ 2,118
March	\$ 3,788	\$ 18	0%	\$ 4,242	\$ 4,595	\$ 353
April	\$ 3,548	\$ 988	39%	\$ 3,974	\$ 5,367	\$ 1,393
May	\$ 2,263	\$ (127)	-5%	\$ 2,535	\$ 4,750	\$ 2,215
June	\$ 3,418	\$ 468	16%	\$ 3,828	\$ 3,924	\$ 96
July	\$ 3,238	\$ 768	31%	\$ 3,627	\$ 4,460	\$ 833
August	<u>\$ 3,543</u>	<u>\$ (187)</u>	<u>-5%</u>	<u>\$ 3,968</u>	<u>\$ 4,630</u>	<u>\$ 662</u>
SUB TOTAL	\$ 25,054	\$ (408)	-2%	\$ 28,060	\$ 37,026	\$ 8,966
September	\$ 3,578	\$ 798	29%	\$ 4,007	\$ 3,260	\$ (747)
October	\$ 4,173	\$ 1,548	59%	\$ 4,674	\$ 5,335	\$ 661
November	\$ 3,073	\$ (786)	-20%	\$ 3,442	\$ 3,900	\$ 458
December	<u>\$ 6,087</u>	<u>\$ 317</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>\$ 6,817</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
	\$ 16,911	\$ 1,877	12%	\$ 18,940	\$ 12,495	\$ (6,445)
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 41,965	\$ 1,469	4%	\$ 47,000	\$ 49,521	\$ 2,521

And we at St. Philip's also continued with our outward-looking generosity. Here is a list of our Mission donations year-to-date November 2022:

MISSION:

PWRDF	\$ 7,770
Henry Budd College	\$ 740
Picton United Food Bank	\$ 1,945
Other Mission	<u>\$ 465</u>
TOTAL MISSION:	\$ 10,920

These are numbers that we should truly be proud of! In December 2022, we will ensure to transfer all these monies to the designated charity.

Do you have a question? Please send it along to tphilipschurch.ca!

Respectfully submitted,

Glendon Walker, Treasurer / Elizabeth Hill, Systems Analyst

Building Committee Report

Building and grounds maintenance has continued as before. We are now concerned about minimizing heating costs over the winter. While church heating is well in hand with a programmable thermostat and a heating regime maintained by Bruce Walker, heating the Hall is more problematic because meetings take place irregularly and often on a short notice. We are therefore considering the installation of a thermostat programmable online, but first need to ensure that the web access is prompt and reliable; options for improvement are now investigated.

Ted Foy, Chair

St. Philip's Communications

St. Philip's continues with our broad communication approach, providing information to our parishioners, our friends and family, and our community. We like to keep our parishioners up to date with our weekly "Growing the Vine" bulletin on the coming week's service, what is going on at our church, and on our Outreach plans. And although we know the bulletin is well regarded and well used, it was wonderful to receive a lovely note from The Venerable Rev. Bob Hales, one of our former priests:

St. Philip's Church (Milford) <stphilipsmilford@gmail.com> | St. Philip's Church (Milford)
St. Philip's Weekly Bulletin - Sunday December 4th - ADVENT II



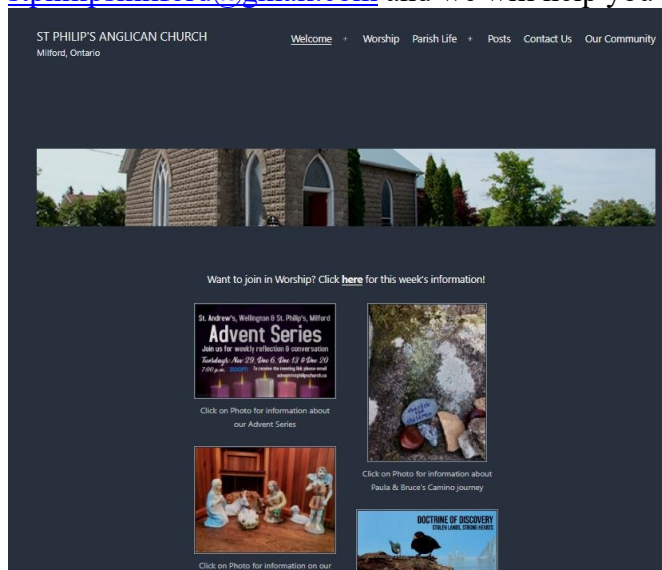
GROWING ON THE VINE

Subject: FW: St. Philip's Weekly Bulletin - Sunday November 27th

What an amazing congregation. You continue to inspire me.

Bob

Do you have a notice you'd like to put in the Bulletin, or not getting the Bulletin? Send an email to stphilipsmilford@gmail.com and we will help you out!



photos, so it is easy for you to get the information you need.

And then there is our website, www.stphilipchurch.ca. We keep our website current on a weekly basis. Our "Welcome" page is updated for all our activities, what is going on in the Anglican communion, and well, anything that we think you'd like to know or read about! We always have a link on our

Worship

Service of Holy Communion

with Canon Nancy Beale

December 11, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.
ADVENT 3

Readings: Isaiah 35: 1-10,
Canticle 18, James 5: 7-10,
Matthew 11: 2-11

Please join us this
Sunday, December 11,
2022 at 11:00 a.m., for
a service of Holy Communion.

Are you the one who is
to come, or should we
expect someone else?
John the baptizer was destined
by God to prepare the way for
our Messiah. While in prison
John heard of Jesus' work, and
sent his disciples to see if his
destiny was about to come true.
Come hear more about this on
Sunday. And please click [here](#)
for information on our [Advent](#)
[Series](#), being held Tuesdays at
7:00 p.m. on ZOOM.

Our Worship page describes about our upcoming weeks' service, as well as the service recordings after service when available. There is always a little teaser about what you might hear in the Gospel message, so maybe take a look before Sunday!

Summary		
Online Users:		
	Visitors	Visits
Today:	43	93
Yesterday:	41	87
Last 7 Days (Week):	342	759
Last 30 Days (Month):	1,153	2,786
Last 365 Days (Year):	11,143	29,357
Total:	15,386	40,135

And if you are wondering if our website is getting many hits –it is! In the table at left, 'Visitor' is an individual who has, well, visited our site, and 'Visits' are the pages they go to. The summary data on this chart tells us that for this past Sunday we had 43 visits to our site, and we can assume they each went to at least one page because the "Visits" are at 93. What this tells us is our website is working and fulfilling its purpose!

If you know of something that you think we should post on our website please send your suggestion along to contact@stphilipchurch.ca.

We also have a Social Media presence on Facebook. We are posting our recorded services on the St. Philip's Facebook page most weeks. 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 @stphilipchurchmilford!



Christmas Eve

Sunday, November 27, 2022 **ADVENT I** 11:00 a.m.
 Sunday, December 4, 2022 **ADVENT II** 11:00 a.m.
 Sunday, December 11, 2022 **ADVENT III** 11:00 a.m.
 Sunday, December 18, 2022 **LESSONS & CAROLS** 11:00 a.m.
 Saturday, December 24, 2022 **CHRISTMAS EVE** 5:00 p.m.
 Family Service
 Sunday, December 25, 2022 **CHRISTMAS DAY** 10:00 a.m.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to St. Philip's Anglican Church in Milford!
 Please join us for any or all of these services.
 For more information, please see our website at www.stphilipchurch.ca

JOY

Lastly, there are our Posters and Flyers. For every event we ponder when and where we should post our events. Usually, it is in the Milford Post Office, the Milford Library, Picton Foodland, and of course Walkers Garage. So, if you think of other places you would like to post a flyer, just let us know @ contact@stphilipchurch.ca.

No need to say much about our newsletters since you are reading one right now!

Respectfully submitted,
 Elizabeth Hill, Communications and Webmaster



"Pray always and do not lose heart"*

Reflection on Luke 18: 1-8

Jesus is addressing his disciples and the crowd that is following him about 'their need to pray always and not to lose heart.' Jesus asks that our praying be constant and steady, not casual and short-lived.

We listen to his story about an unjust judge and a poor, helpless widow. The judge in the story seems a rather conceited character, but he has no illusions about himself. His very words illustrate his arrogance: 'I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone.' This judge was not swayed by religious principle or by public opinion.

The widow isn't necessarily old, but she is helpless as a widow, and obviously very poor. However, someone owes her something: a debt, an inheritance, something; and she is prepared to fight for it! Has there been or is there anything in your life that you are prepared to fight for? Something that you are truly persistent about?

Jesus is using this somewhat humorous, exaggerated story to drill into us the need for persisting in prayer. Why do we pray? How do we pray? Do we barter with God that we will do this or that if our prayer is answered. If we don't get what we pray for, do we give up praying? Do we lose faith? This does not mean we should be persistent in praying to win mega bucks in the lottery! What we pray for should be in keeping with God's will for us. Prayer is communion with God. Jesus is trying to infuse us with hope and encouragement as we live with God in prayer. He is telling us about praying even when it's hard to do so. The widow achieves her purpose by sheer tenacity. This is the urgency and persistence that Jesus wants from us when we pray.

Jesus reminds us of our need to pray always and not to lose heart. The challenge for us is figuring out how to pray when we do lose heart, when we do give up or are tempted to give up because we don't get what we have been praying for.

I think some of us, probably most of us, can say that we have prayed earnestly and persistently for something or someone and our prayer has not been answered in the way we had hoped. We can be persistent in prayer but that does not mean that our prayer will be answered to our satisfaction. We may not be given what we are praying for, but we are given grace to continue our prayer and the strength and courage to deal with the situation. It would seem that, in our Lord's understanding, prayer is not so much isolated moments as the development of a continuing and consistent relationship with God. The widow's persistence exemplifies how followers are to be oriented toward God. Perhaps Jesus is suggesting that a sign of faith will be a willingness to persist in prayer.

Prayer, understood or not, answered or not, is an obedience we owe to God out of trust and love. God listens to our prayer. Jesus promises that God listens. Let us be bold to come to God in prayer and with God's grace be able to say, "not my will, but your will be done".

** An abbreviated sermon, submitted upon Editor's invitation*

Editor's note: This is the last issue of 2022. All is well at St. Philip's, with pretty well everyone contributing something special to keeping our community alive and thriving, a good foundation for next year.

This newsletter could not exist without the contributors named above, Thank You!

And Best Wishes to all for the Christmas season and for all of 2023!

Josef Cihlar < robat58@kos.net >

Photo credits: Elizabeth Hill, Josef Cihlar