



# ST. PHILIP'S ANGLICAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Edition: Easter

9 April 2023

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.*



Paula and Bruce talk on their 2022 Camino Jan 28



Pancake supper Feb 21



St. Patrick night Mar 18





**On Living sustainably: Vicki Emlaw and Matt Bulley on Mar 25**



**Palm Sunday Apr 02**



### *Minister's message*

Praying Together!

This past year we have begun to renew our ecumenical partnership with our friends at South Bay United Church. During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we were blessed to have the congregation from South Bay come and join us for our Sunday Service, and Rev. Phil Hobbs was our guest preacher.

During Holy Week we again shared in worship with our United Church friends. On Maundy Thursday, we invited the folks from South Bay to come and join us in our Maundy Thursday Liturgy, and on Good Friday, we travelled to South Bay to worship with them in their church.

It is a blessing when we, as Christian churches, can gather and worship together. As rural churches, with somewhat smaller congregations, it is always so much more uplifting when we can come together in a full church. Beyond the joy of so many voices joined in prayer and song, it is also an important witness to the wider community.

For far too many generations, Christian churches have been so focussed on the things that set us apart from each other, that we lose sight of what draws and holds us together: our common faith in Jesus, God's Son, our Lord and Saviour. This year, I am so very grateful that we have been able to celebrate that shared belief and joy with our fellow Christians.

We live in a time where we, as active Christians, are by far the minority in our population, and yet we carry, I believe the greatest treasure: the grace and mercy and love of Jesus. It is a gift too great not to be shared. In this era, where people seem to be deeply entrenched and divided on so many issues, to be able to model, even in our little neck of the woods, that life is better when we can stand together and support one another in prayer.

My deep hope is that, from this place of strength and unity, we can offer a bit of a vision of hope and fellowship to the wider community. To borrow a phrase from an old campfire song, "They will know we are Christians by our Love", for each other and for the world.

Your sister in Christ,

Canon Nancy Beale+

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

## *Wardens' report*

With our thoughts moving toward the season of Easter, it is a good time to count our blessings as members of the St. Philip's congregation. We have successfully come through a time of pandemic unknowns, a measured return to group activities, and another amazing Annual Vestry Meeting featuring very positive reports. More recently, we enjoyed a return to "party time" with a St Patrick's Day celebration, recognized maple syrup season at our Pancake Supper and celebrated Palm Sunday with beautiful palm fronds by the altar and palm crosses for everyone. Many blessings for sure!

As well during Lent, Elizabeth Hill helped us build a closer relationship with the Henry Budd College of Ministry in The Pas, Manitoba, showing video clips that introduced us to the people and programs at that facility. We have supported this ministry for many years under the leadership of Jean Burrows and the late Jim McCaw so it was great to actually see and hear from their leaders. Lenten Evening prayers on Wednesday afternoons was a special opportunity for quiet contemplation and prayer. Worshipping with our South Bay neighbours has been enjoyed and having former St John's members attend with us is a special pleasure. The Saturday Morning Talks have been very enjoyable and very well attended.

Following the resignation of Bishop Michael, our Diocese will be holding an Episcopal election on April 29 and we ask you to uphold everyone involved in your prayers as we listen to God's Spirit leading to who will be selected as our new Bishop. Our Synod appointees, Gord and Alfie Deyo will be participating in the election as well as in the pre-Synod preparations and the 2023 Diocesan Synod sessions in Kingston May 26 to 28.

Our Easter Holy Communion service will be such a joyful celebration with Canon Nancy presiding. The choir has been practicing a fitting anthem, and choir members will be in place to support the beautiful Easter hymns and a return to sung responses. It is such a bonus to have

Rosemary Cihlar and Elizabeth Robb share duties at the organ and to have our faithful singers backup the music.

Looking ahead to our responsibilities as members of your Leadership Team, we will be helping with care of the church grounds, initiating the indigenous greeting at our gatherings, considering the need for an Automated External Defibrillator, and supporting the 160 Trees Project.

No doubt, there will be more blessings to share in our future!

Deb Sawle and Sally Cowan, Wardens

## *ACW report*

We are all so happy to shed our winter boots and heavy coats, mittens, hats and scarves. and shout out WELCOME TO SPRING!! And also, a special welcome to Sally Latimour who is the ACW's new Secretary!

The ACW is keeping busy this year; it seems that the pandemic is just about over and we are daring to return to some pre-pandemic activities. The St. Patrick's Potluck and Party was held on March 18th in spite of bad weather forecasts ... and it was a fun time with a delicious meal followed by trivia games and musical entertainment from two singing quartets! On March 24th a very successful World Day of Prayer was held at the Salvation Army church with participation from the local churches and a special presentation and song by Sonrise Christian Academy students.

The ACW Diocesan Annual General Meeting is also returning this year at the Cataraqui Anglican Church, Kingston, on Wednesday, May 3rd. A service of Holy Eucharist will be celebrated by Bishop Michael Oulton and the Guest Speaker will be Maggie McLaren from Dawn House. I have been asked to "extend this invitation to all the ladies within our parish, whether they attend ACW meetings or not ... as we stand as one body of Anglican Church Women and this is our time to come together in our region and celebrate our contributions to the life of Christ through the work that we do."

At our last meeting we firmed up dates for events planned for and by St. Philip's people this year: May 22nd Canoe trip; June 10th Yard and Rummage Sale; August 9th Pork and Corn Roast; December 10th Family Potluck (after church). Please mark these dates on your calendar and start putting aside your items for the Rummage Sale.

Our next ACW meeting will be held at 10 a.m. in the church hall on April 20th. I am hoping that we all have a happy and holy Easter time. GOD BLESS!

Alfie Deyo, President

## *Outreach report*

We began the year with a meeting to make a tree planting plan for St. Philip's. Bishop Michael has challenged churches to plant 160 trees in honour of our diocesan anniversary and as part of the Anglican Communion Forest Project. This action is part of our response to the fifth Mark of Mission of the Anglican Church of Canada: ***to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.*** Seedlings have been ordered and help will be needed for the planting. We will also buy and plant a larger tree at the St. Philip's side yard to commemorate our participation in this worthy project. Thank you to all who have so generously donated to the Creation Care Fund and to all the volunteers.

In February the men took charge and hosted a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday. \$565 was raised for DOORS to support the Basha family.

We have held two movie potluck supper nights and the next one is set for Thursday, April 27 with supper at 6 pm and the movie (TBA) at 7 pm.

Elizabeth Hill has done an excellent job in promoting the Lenten collection for Henry Budd College with over \$1000 raised. She showed three videos produced by the college which gave us more information and a wonderful tour of the college.

Thank you to all who continue to support the Picton United Church County Food Bank and the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund.

Once again Easter cards have been sent on behalf of St. Philip's.

Russell Grant from our diocese will be meeting with us on April 20 at 7 pm in the hall to hear about our activities and offer suggestions for community involvement.

We are making plans for our annual canoe/kayak event which will be held on Monday, May 20. We will launch at Harley and Karen Guernsey's, paddle to the halfway mark and return to Guernseys, with hot dogs to follow at St. Philip's.

We have hosted two Saturday morning talks, one in January when Bruce and Paula Walker shared photos and stories of their Camino de Santiago pilgrimage in Portugal and Spain last year. The second talk was held on March 25, the first of our sustainable living series held with the support of the County Sustainability Group. Vicki Emlaw spoke about organic gardening and heirloom tomatoes, and Matt Bulley told us about heat pumps. We are working on the second of this series. More information will be announced soon.

Our next meeting is set for May 11 at 10 am. Please consider joining us. Thank you all for your support for outreach at St. Philip's.

Wishing all a blessed happy Easter!

Paula Walker, Chair

## *Building Committee Report*

The February Vestry meeting approved a proposal for various small improvements (removing the old antenna from the tower roof; installing paving stones under the picnic table; adding raised flower bed around the cross; improving insulation in the Hall ceiling; painting the tower louvres; removing the wasp nests from the windows; and installing driveway reflectors to guide the snow plough); these activities will be pursued as time and resources permit. In the near future work will be done to repair the plastic window covering, build the base for the picnic table, remove the evergreen shrubs out on the southside of the church (damaged by snow falling from the roof). A spring tidy up will also be arranged.

Ted Foy, Chair

## *St. Philip's and Henry Budd College*



Our Lent tradition at St. Philip's is to collect monetary donations for the Henry Budd College of Ministry in The Pas, Manitoba.

We got to know about the College during this year's campaign, with three videos provided to us by The Rev. Dr. Kara Mandryk. Kara's first video told us about the College, and the importance of donors such as St. Philip's. The second video had Kara take us for a tour of the College – it

was so interesting to see their basement that houses a small chapel, used for liturgical training for both priests and students. The final video was an interview with The Venerable Lydia Constant, the Elder of the College, and an instructor. Lydia has been with Henry Budd College since its inception in 1980. If you would like to see these videos (or watch them again!) please go to our website at [www.stphilipchurch.ca](http://www.stphilipchurch.ca) and click on Kara's photo on the homepage.



And now for the good news! During Lent this year, we raised \$1,250. This is just amazing, and I know Henry Budd College will be thrilled and so grateful to know of our generosity. In 2022 we raised a very generous \$740 – the increase this year shows just much how we at St. Philip's live our Paul's teaching found in 1 Corinthians "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (Chapter 9:7).

During our 2024 Lenten Campaign, we will look deeper into who Henry Budd was, exactly how the relationship between the College and St. Philip's started, and how long St. Philip's has been supporting the College.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Hill

### *Reflection on Luke 18: 1-8\**

***"Pray always and do not lose heart."***

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 do not 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 is 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 do not 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".

\* Provided at Editor's request

**Editor's note:** After a successful Vestry and with full plans for the next year, St. Philip's is ready to continue and expand its work near and far.

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Photo credits: Bruce and Paula Walker, Alfie Deyo, Josef Cihlar