



# ST. PHILIP'S ANGLICAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Edition: Christmas

7 December 2025

Priest-In-Charge: Archdeacon Nancy Northgrave



## 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.



Aug 6: Pork roast dinner



**Mistissini, Quebec:  
Archdeacon Nancy's services  
during July, 2025**



**Her replacement: at StP: Canon Robert  
Stewart with wife Mardi**



**Jul 13: Service at Bill and Sally Cowan's**





**Aug 23: Celebrating Leigh Scott's life**







Sept 10: Dinner and gifts for seasonal farm workers





**ST. PHILIP'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**

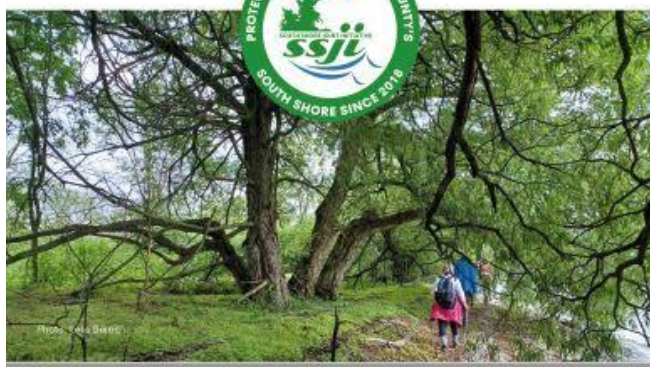
44 St. Philip Street, Milford, ON  
www.stphilipschurch.ca

**SATURDAY MORNING TALKS**

**TREAD LIGHTLY. LIVE FULLY:  
THE SOUTH SHORE FOOTPATH PROJECT**

Join Us on Saturday, 4 October | 10 AM  
(9:30 a.m. for coffee and muffins)

Guest Speakers: Geoff Craig and Lesa Berec  
South Shore Joint Initiative Footpath Project Team



**Orange Shirt Day**

Please join us for prayers and discussion

**Tuesday, September  
30, 2025 10:00 A.M.**

**St. Philip's Anglican Church** 44 St. Philip Street, Milford



**NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION**

**Among other events...**





## Minister's message

"In the days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains....they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks...neither shall they know war anymore."

As we prepare our hearts and our homes to once again celebrate Christmas I would like us to spend some time with these beautiful words and this beautiful promise. The promise of peace. On our Advent Wreath, the second candle we light is the candle for peace. In the frenzy of what I think of as "cultural Christmas", there doesn't seem to be a whole lot of peace. Certainly, when we turn on the news, there are very few stories of peace, or hope or joy or love for that matter. And yet that is our journey through advent to Christmas. The advent wreath lifts up the beautiful themes of hope, peace, joy and love.

Perhaps this year your spiritual preparation for Christmas could focus on these very things. Take that first week of Advent to lift to God in prayer your hopes. What are those deepest hopes and desires of your heart? Each day share with God the yearnings and hopes deep in your heart.

Week 2, take time each day to pray for peace. Pray for the people in the various places of the world that are at war. Pray for our own peacekeepers and members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Pray for peace in our own streets and communities... and pray for our local police who are charged with keeping the peace. Pray for peace in your own home and in your own family. Every family has its challenges.... Pray for peace. Finally, pray for peace in your own heart.

Week 3 we light the candle for Joy. In your prayers this week take time to give thanks for all that is good and right and lovely in your life. Tell the Lord about the things that give you joy... and thank Him for them.

Week 4 we light the Candle for Love. Throughout this week, take extra time each day to pray for all the people you love and carry in your heart. And take time to thank God for his great love for us, that he sent us Jesus, that we might come to know peace, joy, hope and love. As we kneel with Mary and Joseph and the shepherds and the angels to once again welcome the baby Jesus into our hearts and homes this Christmas, may we feel the peace, joy, love and hope he came to bring.

Come home to your church family this Christmas.

Christmas Eve service at St. Philip's. 5pm

Christmas Day 10 am

Your sister in Christ,

Archdeacon Nancy Northgrave+, Anglican Churches of St. Andrew's and St. Philip's

## Wardens' report for ADVENT



*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 2:2-4*

As Fall settles in and we anticipate the pending close of another calendar year, it is time to take stock of the past few months at St Philip's.

In our usual manner, we have taken on projects, enjoyed having meals together, shared our resources with those in need and learned about ways we can support the community around us in a meaningful and sustainable way. As well, we joined in mourning the loss of Leigh, being with Leigh's family in celebrating the life of a dependable worshiper and reliable helper at St Philip's. Leigh's name will be added to the monument in our Memorial garden.

Most importantly, we have worshiped together under the leadership of Archdeacon Nancy, Canon Fran and Padre Blair and with the capable support of our Lay Readers: Paula and Sally L and intercessors Deb, Paula and Sally L. It was a great pleasure to get to know seminary student Robert Stewart and Captain John Vanstone, both providing pastoral and Sunday coverage during Nancy's time in Mistissini. We also had a visit from Bishop William in July who led us in worship and shared the Eucharist with us.

We bid Padre Blair a fond farewell as he takes on an appointment to the Parishes of Holy Trinity (Frankford) and St. John the Evangelist (Stirling). We are grateful for the time that he was able to lead our services over the past 20 years on alternating first Sundays of the month. Padre Blair often attended special events and other services at St Philip's and was happy to lend a helping hand whenever needed.

With the need for more understanding of, and support for, our indigenous people, we were pleased to share Archdeacon Nancy with the community of St. John (Mistissini) for the month of July. In addition to that, each Sunday we hold various members of that community in our Prayers of the People. As well, we pause at the beginning of our regular Sunday worship services to hear a Land Acknowledgement. We continue our financial and prayer support for the Henry Budd College for Ministry in The Pas, Manitoba and in September, we gathered at Prayer Circle to focus our hearts and our minds on the prayers that were developed in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

On a sad note, we said Good Bye to Leigh Scott. On August 23 we celebrated his life at St. Philip's. Leigh was a faithful member of our church for many years. He served as warden, was a member of the building committee and a volunteer with the local public school reading program. He worked on adding storage space and the office space, helped with lawn mowing, and so much more. Leigh supported all our events and we could always count on his famous chocolate cake at our potluck suppers. Rest in peace dear friend.

We would like to thank our entire church family who continue to support the work we do here in Milford, the County, the Diocese and the wider world.

As always, we are looking forward to the Advent and Christmas seasons with our annual Carols and Lessons service on December 14th at 4PM, Christmas Eve at 5PM and Christmas Day at 10am.

May you and all those you love experience all the love and joy of this blessed season & we hope to see you at one of our Christmas Services.

Sally Cowan, Rector's Warden

Deb Sawle, People's Warden

## *ACW report*

With the Christmas season upon us and 2026 just around the corner, St. Philip's ACW looks back upon a busy and successful year. The Yard & Rummage sale held in June was well attended and lots of 'bargain' items went out the doors and off the lawn. Likewise, the Pork Corn Roast in August once again fed many happy people. Thank you all for your help and support of these events.

I attended this year's ACW Retreat in Kingston, led by Canon Margaret Johnston-Jones, a full day's program filled with much reflection on 'disruptive grace' which was also the theme of the 2025 Synod. I also attended the ACW Regional Meeting, with Mary Brett, at St. John's Church in Bancroft. This little church has to be the busiest in our Region; Mary and I agreed that the early start to the day was well worth the longish drive. We all received a jar of red pepper jelly made by the 'St. John's Kitchen' which also makes the meals for the local Meals on Wheels program, among others - they were setting up the tables for another meal taking place that day at supper time! The guest speaker for the meeting was from the Community Support Services in Hastings and Prince Edward and the day's offering was given to them.

At our November meeting, the ladies decided to make donations to six very worthwhile local charities- Community Care for Seniors, Alternatives for Women, The ROC Youth Services, Reaching for Rainbows, Angel Tree, and Hospice Prince Edward. A donation is also going to The Guatemala Stove Project and we had already donated to the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

The Advent Lessons & Carols service on December 14th will again be followed by a potluck supper and a 'party' with a gift exchange.

In closing, we wish you a happy and blessed Christmas season and very best wishes for the coming year.

Merry Christmas!!

Alfie Deyo, President

## *Outreach report*

The St. Philip's outreach committee's most recent meeting was held on October 16.

We are continuing to support the backpacks for migrant workers program led by Mary Ann Barrett of Emmanuel Baptist. We are now responsible for five sites: the Waupoos Winery, Apple Dabble Orchards, The Blueberry Patch, the County Cider Company and Lighthall Vineyards with a total of 23 migrant workers.

On September 10 we hosted a dinner for the workers at St. Philip's. It was a beautiful sunny evening and the turnout was excellent. The hall was packed and our guests seemed to enjoy themselves. Thank you to Josef for his Spanish message of welcome and to all who prepared and served the food and helped with rides. We are hoping to encourage other churches to support this program as we are most grateful for the hard work of the migrant workers in our county.

We continue to host Saturday morning talks. On Saturday, October 4, guest speakers Geoff Craig and Lesa Berac talked about the South Shore Footpath Project. We are grateful for the volunteers who are working to make this walking trail a reality in our community and we appreciate their determination to protect the environment. We hope to host our next talk on February 7 with a gardening theme. There will be more information soon.

On November 13 several of us enjoyed a potluck supper and movie. Our next date will be announced in the weekly bulletin. We hope you plan to attend. Dinner starts at 6 pm and all are welcome.

St. Philip's will participate in the Festival of Trees again this year. The nativity scene from St. John's will be offered to help raise funds for our hospital.

November 30th will be White Gift Sunday at St. Philip's and all donations will be given to the Salvation Army to be used in their Christmas community gift baskets.

On December 12 at 2 pm Archdeacon Nancy will lead a Christmas service at the McFarland Home. St. Philip's will provide ice cream and cake for a time of fellowship following the service. All are welcome.



St. Philip's continues to generously support the work of Alongside Hope and the Picton United Church Food Bank. Please remember them and those they serve in your prayers and thank you for your support.

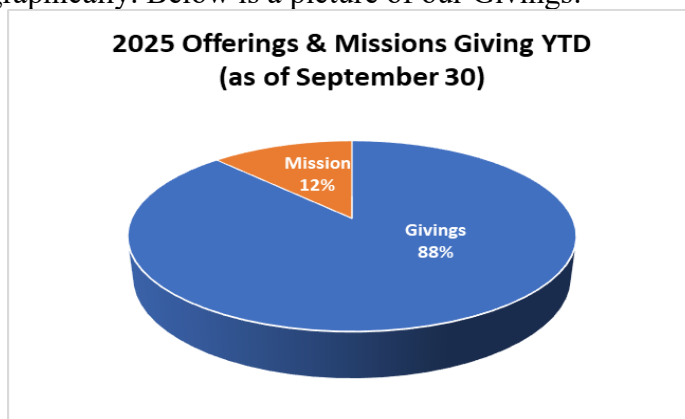
We do have a prayer group that prays daily from a confidential list for our church, our community and the world. If you wish to make a request for a need or a thanksgiving please speak to Paula and if you feel called to this ministry please speak to Archdeacon Nancy.

Our meetings are open to all and the next one is set for December 18 at 10 am.

We are grateful for the support of our congregation and we do wish you all a very Merry Christmas!  
Paula Walker, Chair

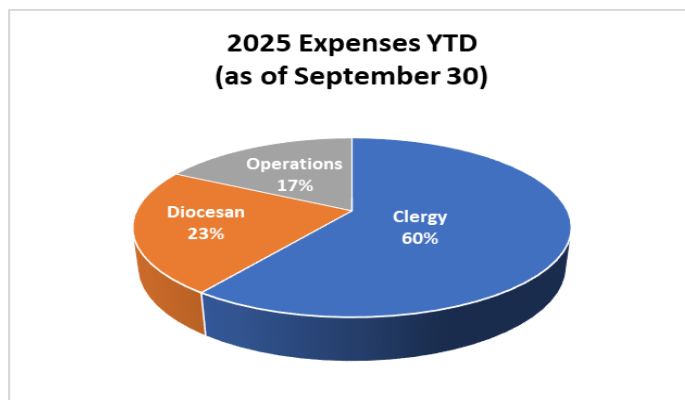
## *Financial report*

As we showed you in the Spring Newsletter, we would like to update you on the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter financial position for St. Philip's graphically. Below is a picture of our Givings:



You will see that at St. Philip's we continue to be very generous in looking outward in our Givings. Specifically, we support Alongside Hope (formerly PWRDF), Henry Budd College (we were able to match our generous donation of 2024), and over \$2,000 to the Picton Food Bank.

Regarding our expenses, we have been able to keep our Operations Expenses under what was budgeted. You will see the largest component of our expenses is supporting our Clergy (Archdeacon Nancy and our part-time monthly support of Padre Blair and Canon Fran), and to the Diocese of Ontario.



You may recall at our Vestry meeting in February that we received approval to remove up to \$10,000 from our investments, in order to continue with our Ministry. After the meeting St. Philip's received an

extraordinary donation that has reduced the need of this removal. God continues to work through us at St. Philip's, for which we feel truly blessed.

Respectfully submitted, Glendon Walker & Elizabeth Hill

### *Building Committee Report*

It has been a quiet year. There was all the regular maintenance, lawns and leaves. We are still at war with the wasps as well. The only new addition was the outdoor library installed in the spring. We also had the thermostats wired to the electricity supply for more dependability and for being able to see the church temperature online. Thank you to all for their efforts and service.

Ted Foy, Chair

Editor's note: We are all grateful to our leadership and to all active participants for their work in serving. Wishing you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas, and another opportunity to welcome the Saviour into our broken world.

Josef Cihlar <[robat58jc@gmail.com](mailto:robat58jc@gmail.com)>

Photo credits: Elizabeth Hill, Sally Latimour, Josef Cihlar