



ST. PHILIP'S ANGLICAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Edition: Easter

5 April 2020

Incumbent: The Rev. Ada Clifton



OUR MISSION:

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.



Lessons & Carols Dec 22



Maria and Noel
(visiting from Winnipeg)



Service at Walkers' on a cold Sunday Jan 25



Camino de Santiago – a
2019 walk across Spain
with a camera

Josef Cihlar
St. Philip's Church
robot58@kos.net

**Josef's Camino de Santiago
presentation Feb 15**



Pancake Supper Feb 25



Minister's message

Dear St. Philip's family,

Through this season we will be apart physically but not alone spiritually. We continue to gather online through Zoom conference calls, we worship and sing through YouTube videos, and we share and pray on telephone calls. I do hope that you will continue to connect with your fellow parishioners, as we connect with you. If you would to pray or visit on the phone, please call Rev. Ada at 613-968-1863.

There is deep uncertainty in our world, but as Christians let us recall the "Good News" of Easter: that Jesus is risen from the dead. And it is through this Good News that our lives are renewed each day.

As we journey through this period of Covid-19, I invite you to begin each morning, remembering that we are baptized children of God, that Christ is risen, that death has been conquered into eternity, that our sins are forgiven, and that we live a new life with God and in God. This is why I love the Easter proclamation –



Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

It reminds me that the world comes into each new day with good news.

While this Easter season may look different than expected in this time of physical distancing and isolation, I hope this issue of our newsletter will bring some gladness, with reminiscences of events and looking with hope to what the future brings.

I look forward to worshipping with you through this period, and will be especially jubilant when we are able to gather again!

With warm Easter blessings,

Rev. Ada

The Rev. Ada Clifton

Incumbent

Anglican Churches of Wellington, Milford and Waupoos, PEC

Wardens' report

At a time when the world is experiencing unprecedented concerns, it is most appropriate to have a 'virtual huddle' with our St. Philip's family and look to the future with hope and anticipation. In several months we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone for our church building. Three groups of the congregation are each working on some part of the event plans and there was great excitement in the room as ideas were shared and plans formulated. Luckily, the basic plans were firmed up before we were required to turn to communication by email and telephone messaging. Details are provided below.

Not being able to be at St Philip's on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. leaves a large void for all of us, but Rev. Ada's YouTube services are available to most so we can share prayer, a homily and Sarah's wonderful music together (or alone). We missed the fun of the planned St Patrick's Day party and will not have the Canoe trip in May but it will be a wonderful celebration when we can gather together once again.

As your Wardens, we are continuing to look after the business of the church in conjunction with Rev. Ada, our financial team, and the direction from Bishop Michael and the Diocesan leadership. If you think of ways that we can serve you better, we hope you will tell us. Please let us know of your special needs or those in the community and we will find a way to help where we can. We are most concerned about keeping our church community together and lively as it is on Sunday mornings, as much as it is possible at this time.

If our St. Philip's ancestors could survive their church being completely destroyed by fire 100 years ago, surely we can survive a pandemic!

Sally Cowan and Josef Cihlar

Wardens

ACW report

The scheduled ACW Sunday was our first event and wasn't it grand!! Thanks to a hydro pole accident and resulting power outage our service was held at Bruce and Paula Walker's home. The day revealed the close-knit family feeling of St. Philip's Church and how a church is so much more than a building. Lunchtime was pretty good also. It was a good day, thanks be to God!!

The ACW met on February 26th and firmed up the Schedule of Events and I am listing below events after Easter:

- May 2 Yard and Rummage Sale
- May 18 Canoe Trip
- August 5 Pork and Corn Roast
- October 3 Yard and Rummage Sale
- Nov. 15 100 Year Anniversary Service and Lunch
- Nov. 28 Christmas Bazaar and Tea

Our meeting also decided to make donations to:

- L'Arche
- Seniors Ministry (Fran Langois)
- Hospice
- Stephen Lewis
- Guatemala Stove Project
- Picton Food Bank*
- South Marysburgh Mirror (donation on temporary hold)
- Rector's discretionary fund
- ACW Diocesan Thankoffering

and to St. Philip's church. We are all so thankful to be in a position to financially support these worthy charities.

April 15th was chosen to be the next meeting date but of course it is canceled. We can only hope and pray that all of us as well as our friends and loved ones get through this pandemic unscathed.

Alfie Deyo, President

Outreach report

We continue to host potluck supper movie nights. In January "Pink Panther" was shown, and in February we saw "Wonder". On Shrove Tuesday, February 25 the men of St. Philip's, with Tom Sheil once again doing the cooking, put on another delicious pancake supper. It was good to have Rev. Captain Blair Ross join us and he was certainly a big help with the dishes. \$413 was raised for the Diocese of Ontario Refugee Committee.

Again this year our Lenten collection is being raised for the Henry Budd College of Ministry. Donations are to be in by Easter Sunday. Thank you to all who support this effort. We thank Jean Burrows for taking the lead.

We hope to have a community showing of "Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts". This film is one of the responses of the Anglican Church's Primate's Commission on Discovery, Reconciliation and Justice. It is about the devastating decision made over 500 years ago by Pope Alexander VI which continues to have a profound impact on Indigenous people today. Once we are

again able to gather we will have a viewing and will discuss how we might present this film to a bigger audience in our community.

We planned to host an Earth Day service on April 22, the fiftieth anniversary of the Earth Day, perhaps this will be rescheduled for the World Day of Prayer for Creation on September 1. Our hope is to invite our community to a service offering prayers of thanksgiving and for healing of God's beautiful earth.

Fran has contacted the ROC (Recreation Outreach Centre) in Picton. We are considering ways to support the good work they are doing with young people in our community.

In these uncertain times, please let us remember the very important work of our Primate's World Relief and Development Fund and our local food bank as they continue to serve those in need.

Thank you for your support for the efforts of this committee.

May the good news of Easter fill our hearts with hope.

Blessings,

Paula Walker, Chair

Altar Guild report

The Altar Guild follows the centuries old traditions of setting the Lord's table for each service. It is humbling to consider that we are following the guidelines formed by the early church. Members also clean and care for the linens and vessels used in the communion service.

Last year our group has lost three members and it would be wonderful to welcome new people. If you are looking for a gentle ministry which is not too strenuous or time consuming, consider becoming part of the Altar Guild. This ministry is open to both men and women. Training is provided. For more information call Fran Larkin at 613-476-6824.

As we experience the stresses of this difficult time, may you find peace and reassurance in the thought that Easter reminds us of God's great gift of hope for the world through the resurrection of Christ.

Shirley Guy, Paula Walker, & Fran Larkin, Alter Guild

Budget update to April 01

Operating Account

Income \$14,595.49

Expenses \$19,384.27

Balance \$1,920.16

Memorial Account Balance \$6,775.82

We have paid the central treasurer \$12000.00. We owe the central treasurer \$23,862.00 to be paid over the remainder of this year. PWRDF has taken in \$1,635.00.

All bills are paid.

Bruce Walker, Treasurer

*When we are gathered together**

“You have heard that it was said....but I say to you..”

Our Gospel today contains straightforward teaching: **do this**.

And the do or don't list is daunting: murder, anger, adultery, divorce, oaths, swearing. Today we are brought up short by Jesus' heightened expectations concerning the Law.

Jesus is not suggesting a new list of rules. He is not saying that he has come to change the law or that the law is inadequate, or insufficient, and is now no longer applicable. Jesus is saying that his teaching would not erase the law and the prophets, even in the slightest, but seeks to fulfill them because these commandments are voiced by God.

The law forbids murder, but Jesus says that not just murder, but anger makes one liable to judgement. Jesus is not condemning the expression of anger. Jesus knows that our human nature is sometimes prone to anger, but his concern seems to be less the having of anger than what one does with it: does anger shape our relationship, or preclude reconciliation? Jesus wants us to be aware how dangerous anger can be; justified or not.

If you murder someone, you are liable to judgement.

If you are angry with someone, you are liable to judgement.

If you insult someone, you are liable to the council.

If you call someone a fool, you are liable to the hell of fire.

The punishments for the offenses appear to be getting worse, but the offenses themselves do not necessarily seem to be increasing in severity. Here again it is shown that the rules and expectations in the Kingdom of God are the reverse of what we expect and experience in our society today.

Have we even considered that calling someone a 'fool' or 'stupid' would plunge us to the brink of hellfire?

Murder begins with a murderous attitude, wishing harm to another person. Jesus considers the intent as dangerous as the act. And the same is true concerning adultery. It is more than the actual physical action that hurts not only us, but also those around us. As Christians all our relationships and all our actions are measured by the standards and values of the kingdom of God. We are called to embrace this other way of thinking, of living into the Kingdom of God.

Refuse to harbor anger, honor oaths whether in marriage or to your neighbors, desire justice so much that you would rather suffer a wrong than impose one on another, love your enemies and pray to God on their behalf. These teachings indicate that what a person does is only part of the problem. The kingdom of God demands radical discipleship so that even a person's thought world is transformed by contact with God's reign.

“You have heard that it was said....but I say to you..”

Jesus connects the dots for his listeners from outward acts to internal orientation, from murder to anger, from adultery to lust. It is one thing to behave rightly. It is another thing entirely for one's heart to be oriented toward love. Just as it is easier to make a sacrifice at the temple than it is to do justice, so it is easier to keep the commandment against murder than it is to avoid anger in one's heart.

The season of Epiphany proclaims the good news of God's presence with us. Our response to that proclamation, our recognition of God's life and work here and now, is more than going through the motions on Sunday. Jesus calls us to a whole new life in God - 24/7; to totally commit ourselves to the transformative power of God's law and commandments. May God give us the strength and conviction to make that commitment.

Rev Fran Langlois

[Excerpt from homily based on Matthew 5:21-37]

* submission invited by the Editor

November 2020: The Big Anniversary

As Bill Cowan wrote in the article published in December 2019 issue of the St. Philip's Newsletter, 2020 is the year of the 100th anniversary of a fire that destroyed the original church building; and that initiated a feverish effort to rebuild our church. Although completed fast, it was also done well and the building has continued to serve the needs of the community until the present time.

To remember and celebrate the presence and importance of St. Philip's Church in Milford and the surrounding area, we have made plans and started the preparations for November celebrations. The activities are taking place under three themes, 'Past', 'Present' and 'Future'. Each theme is addressed by a group of St. Philip's volunteers, led by Bill Cowan (Past), Arnold Robb (Present), and Paula Walker (Future). Below are some details about each area.

a) **The Past Group** will develop a brochure looking at the history of the church, with focus on the last 100 years. It will be based on archival materials, local knowledge, and interviews with long time members of the church and others in the community. An example of the past is the origin of the Memorial Garden described below. The brochure is intended to serve as a record of St. Philip's history as well as support the key church service in November of this year.

b) **The Present Group** was formed in early February to look at various projects that should be considered as meeting the overall objective, *Beautification of our church to enhance its warmth and welcoming appearance*. The Group consists of an excellent cross section of our congregation: Bill and Sally Cowan, Leigh Scott, Ted Foy, Murray and Shirley Guy, Josef Cihlar, Rev. Ada, Bruce Walker and Fran Larkin, with Arnold as chair.

The initial 12 project ideas were discussed at length by the team, and the following were unanimously selected: Memorial stain glass window, replacing the window above the entrance door (see figure); clearing/rearranging church floor space; painting the church interior; adding lighting to highlight the stained glass windows; and steam-cleaning the carpet. Potential vendors were contacted, and timelines as well as a budget were prepared for these activities. The end of September was established as the latest date for the completion of all projects. - At this time, the memorial window project is the most advanced, having engaged a Kingston company (The Glass House) who possess extensive experience in this area. The Group is now expecting to receive preliminary design options, and in view of the pandemics and limitations on direct contacts will rely on electronic communication.



c) **The Future Group** (another label for the existing Outreach Committee) is working to promote the 100th anniversary celebration through events already planned as well as new ones. A major focus will be on the celebrations in November, and on ways to promote the celebration in our community. The constraints necessitated by the response to the COVID pandemics will be decisive in selecting both the type and schedule of these activities.

The emergence and evolution of the COVID-19 pandemics is expected to have limited effect on the progress made in the three above areas. The major one will be limitations on groups gatherings, which will be most relevant for the format and details of the November celebrations. At this point we are

proceeding on the assumption that by the fall such restrictions will be sufficiently lifted to allow the celebrations to take place.

Bill Cowan, Arnold Robb, Paula Walker
Group chairs

*St. Philip's Memorial Garden: a glimpse from history**

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. Philip's that met with such enthusiasm and support. We paved the parking lot and the driveway, planted shrubs and trees, and installed 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 visit 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.*

We received great support for this project and more than 40 names have been inscribed. The cost is \$200.00 per name and when a few are subscribed, we ask Heritage monuments to engrave the names. Contact Bruce Walker or Bill Cowan if you wish to get involved. If you recall, the idea came from 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: "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 thank John for suggesting this same sort of project at St. Philip's.

At our most recent bible study, we studied 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 of the fact that our Church grounds will soon need some care and attention. Diane Walker back in 2001, designed the flower beds 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.

Bill Cowan

* reprinted from an earlier issue of the St. Philip's Newsletter

Editor's note: Let us celebrate Easter in our homes by prayer, attending services online and helping our neighbours

Josef Cihlar < robat58@kos.net >

Photo credits: Sally Cowan, Paula Walker, Josef Cihlar