

# St. Philip Anglican Church

*in the Diocese of British Columbia*

## ANNUAL REPORTS

for 2019

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,  
my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,  
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

(Psalm 18:2)

VESTRY MEETING

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

7:00 PM

# St. Philip Anglican Church, Oak Bay

2928 Eastdowne Road, Victoria, BC V8R 5R8

"As we gather in worship, we acknowledge that we meet on the ancestral unceded lands of the Songhees and Esquimalt peoples."

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**Prayer Ministry** Bonnie Bailey Pipes H 250.592.9847 bonniecbailey@gmail.com

**Envelope Secretary** Betty Davidson bettyd@stphilipvictoria.ca

**11:15 am Music Director** Jill Ann Siemens jillann@stphilipvictoria.ca

**Verger** Neal Tucker

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**ST. PHILIP ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING  
TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 2020 7:00 PM**

**AGENDA**

1. WORSHIP  
Prayers for the Parish and In Memoriam
2. OPENING BUSINESS:  
Appoint Gillian Fosdick as Secretary of the meeting  
Sign-up sheet
3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES for Annual Meeting of January 29, 2019
4. APPOINTMENT of 3 SCRUTINEERS
5. ELECTIONS (see over)  
Election of 1 Warden  
Election of Parish Council Member(s)
6. TREASURER'S REPORT & Financial Review 2019
7. Appointment of *Accounting Review Committee* for fiscal year 2020
8. ADOPTION OF BUDGET for 2020
9. Transforming Futures – Appointment of Committee
10. OTHER REPORTS as circulated
11. If new Council Members have been elected by Ballot – Motion now for Ballots to be destroyed
12. FURTHER QUESTIONS or Comments?  
New Business
13. ANNOUNCEMENTS:  
Induction of new Council at the end of the 9:00 AM service on Sunday 2 February 2020,  
and Introduction at beginning of 11:15 AM Service on Sunday 2 February 2020.  
  
Parish Council Meetings usually held on Third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. @ 3478  
Salsbury Way First meeting of new Council in 2020 will be shifted to 11 February.
14. Adjournment and Blessing – Christopher Page

# MINUTES OF ST. PHILIP ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2019 7:00 PM

The Annual Vestry Meeting was chaired by the Rector of St. Philip, The Rev. Christopher Page. There were 35 people present, who signed the roll, declaring that:

*"I am sixteen years old or older, baptized and have attended St. Philip Anglican Church, for the 3 months prior to this Annual Meeting and am on the Parish Roll."*

## 1. WORSHIP

Christopher Page began the meeting with a word of welcome.

Alice Jourmel read the scripture passage, Revelation 21:1-6.

Christopher offered a brief reflection on the reading.

Caleb Hosie offered prayers for the parish and read the 'In Memoriam' - giving thanks for the lives of those parishioners and loved ones who died in 2018.

### ✠ St Philip Parish – In Memoriam 2018 ✠

*These members of our community*

David Heron

Stephanie Williams

Susan Ferris

*And others we remember:*

Anthony

Betty Pipes

Brian Wall

David Regnier

Douglas Aubrey Tozer

Harry Doherty

Julia Robbins

Len

Paul Yeker

Phil

Bob Hosie

Mr. Watson

Wendy Steen-Mitchell

## 2. OPENING BUSINESS:

Gillian Fosdick was appointed Secretary.

Christopher made his annual invitation to the congregation, providing an opportunity to say anything to him, welcoming any expression of comment or concern about our parish life.

**Ruth McGhee** asked if he had a book in the works. Christopher said no.

**Michael Pipes** asked if he intends now to complete the next fiscal year at St. Philip or if there are any updates to share about retirement plans. Christopher replied that there are 'no givens' – he has no specific retirement plans at this time and we will move forward together and see how the search for an Associate Priest goes.

**Sharon Richmond** offered Thanks – to Christopher and to Heather for ‘holding the tension’ between retirement and being committed here at the parish full time.

### **3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES for Annual Meeting of January 30, 2018**

**MOVED** Joan Sedgewick      **SECONDED** Sharon Richmond  
Open for DISCUSSION: Minutes of AGM 2018  
**VOTE:**                      **CARRIED**

### **4. APPOINTMENT of 3 SCRUTINEERS**

In the event that a vote is taken, scrutineers were appointed to count the ballots.  
Christopher Page appointed  
1. Mel Zimmerman 2. Brenda Hosie 3. John Laidlaw

### **5. ST. PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL 2019 Elections**

Christopher Page acknowledged that he is inordinately grateful to Parish Council – and particularly to the Wardens.

#### **Election of 1 WARDEN**

Two Wardens share the role, serving a two year ‘staggered term.’  
Sharon Richmond has one year remaining in her fourth term as Warden.  
Karen Van Rheenen has completed 1 term and has been nominated for a second two-year term.  
Christopher opened the floor calling for any other nominations.  
No other Nominations were put forward.  
Karen Van Rheenen elected Warden by Acclamation.

#### **SYNOD DELEGATES**

Synod Representatives serve a 3 year term and represent us at Diocesan meetings.

Jennifer Sharlow      Nominated for 3 yr term  
Karen Van Rheenen    2 years remaining  
Dave Conway            2 years remaining  
Gillian Rhodes        standing down this year

#### **Treasurer 1 position - 5 Year Term – Appointed**

Christopher thanked Ged for his work this year, saying that he has been a tireless and a meticulous worker and that we are so grateful to him – and for him.

Ged McLean 4 years remaining.

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER-AT LARGE**

6 positions – 2 Year Terms – Elected

Greg Anctil	Nominated for a 2 year term
Larry Anthony	Nominated for a 2 year term
Raymond Fieltsch	Nominated for a 2 year term
Gillian Fosdick	Nominated for a 2 year term
Esther Graham	Nominated for a 2 year term
Judith Slimmon	Nominated for a 2 year term
Ken Davidson	1 year remaining

Christopher opened floor to new nominations.

No others were proposed or came forward.

These Members were appointed by acclamation.

No elections were necessary. There were no ballots to be destroyed.

### **6. TREASURER’S REPORT & Financial Review 2018**

**MOTION:** – to Receive the Financial Reports for 2018 as tabled.

**SECONDED:** Clayton Savage

#### **Comments from Treasurer, Ged McLean:**

The Treasurer’s job is the executive function of our parish money management, over-seeing the whole picture, working to ensure that we are “ship shape.”

Ged then acknowledged that many people are involved in managing the details of our financial health:

First – it is the members of St. Philip community who support the activities of the church through financial donations and the many people who contribute their time and talents to make our church community what it is.

Ged acknowledged with gratitude, the presence of Nancy Geddes in the congregation this evening. Nancy fulfilled the role of Envelope Secretary, money counter and bank depositor for 30 years.

Ged then thanked Bookkeeper, Kathy Fyfe. He said, ‘I am particularly grateful for the work Kathy does in managing our books. Kathy is faithful and diligent in this work and her contribution is hugely valued.

Ged also acknowledged Betty Davidson and Alice Jourmel who have managed our givings throughout the year. Betty Davidson has been transitioning to take over as Envelope Secretary from Alice this past fall.

St. Philip’s community finances are characterized by regular predictable expenditures distributed throughout the year which are met with mostly regular givings. We have had no unexpected or unusual expenses in 2018.



In the third quarter of 2018 our givings began to lag well behind expenditures, but our community rallied toward the end of the year so that our giving slightly exceeded our expenses. Thanks were offered to all who helped to balance our expenditures with increased giving at the end of the year.

Beyond planning for the budget, there are a few other items Ged noted relating to our management of finances in 2019:

- We will be exploring the use of 'e-transfers' to make donating to the church easier.
- We will be updating our (2006) accounting software system to modernize our platform and streamline internal accounting.
- We will be providing financial updates to the St. Philip Community roughly 3 times during the year so people can better balance their giving with the needs of the church. Ged emphasized that these will be planned communications to keep the congregation updated and not indicative of any emergency.
- There are a number of little anomalies in the budget figures with regard to the value of furniture and equipment. Ged will work this year to see that we no longer carry forward depreciated assets.

The Diocese has dictated that we use a new 'Narrative budget' format which focuses on describing the various areas of ministry our church is engaged in, and the actual cost associated with providing them, rather than simply presenting columns of numbers.

Ged greatly affirmed the beauty of this 'narrative budget' as it provides a greater sense of how the church uses all of its resources – people – time – talents – and money – to support ministry.

As an example, Christopher's salary is split across 3 areas of investment, 50% of his salary is listed under "Worship", 30% is seen in "Pastoral Care" and 20% goes to "Administration and Communication".

The resulting 'pie chart' of this style of narrative budget presents a very different view of how we spend our money. When you begin with this template from the diocese, it helps to open up and understand, just how much effort goes in to each area of endeavour. It is a great tool for us to embrace and help to celebrate our parish life.

### **Income Statement:**

- decline of \$9,000 in offering from the previous year

Regarding Budget income expectation for 2019

- attendance is down

- unreasonable to predict an increase

- we are still in a sufficiently good financial position

One large contingency / expense which is not reflected in these figures is the looming threat of Christopher's retirement and the hiring of new Associate Priest.

**VOTE:** (to Receive the Financial Reports for 2018 as tabled) **CARRIED**

**MOTION: – Mike Pipes**

Approval has been given by this Vestry to spend up to a maximum total of \$150,000 to fund the transitional time of shared ministry between the incumbent, Christopher Page and a new Associate Priest.

**Seconded: Clayton Savage**

**Vote: CARRIED**

**MOTION: – Ged McLean**

That we recognize and thank the Anglican Diocese of BC for the support they have provided to St. Philip parish, through the Diocesan Vision Fund, to partially offset the costs of construction of our labyrinth; our up coming 'Language of Silence' retreat; the new sign on our front lawn and also costs of our Vacation Bible School.

**Seconded: Larry Anthony**

**Vote: CARRIED**

## **7. Appointment of Accounting Review Committee**

1. Joan Sedgwick; 2. Evelyn Savage; 3. Nathan Bird.

## **8. Adoption of Budget for 2019**

### **Budget Assumptions and Summary**

The 2019 budget has been created on the basis of trying to meet our ministry objectives while keeping expenses to a level that we believe can be sustained through regular congregational giving throughout the year. To this end, our budget for 2019 is slightly higher than 2018.

Significant items to note for 2019 include:

- Salaries, benefits and other fixed costs have been increased by 2%. The actual amount of salary increases is dictated by the Diocese and has not yet been finalized so this amount may change slightly.
- In the absence of Karen Fenimore's paid position, the pastoral care and seniors ministry she led will be continued by Christopher and a team of volunteers.
- Caleb Hosie's ministry to Oak Bay high School has been suspended. Caleb will continue to work with Youth in St. Philip in 2019.
- An amount of \$12,000.00 has been allocated for "undesignated contingency ministry".
- Other costs have been reviewed based on actual expenditures made in 2019 and wherever possible budget amounts reduced.

- Budget for “funded missions” (St. Philip component of outreach) has been increased from \$17,000 to \$20,000 to help move us closer to a long-term goal of giving 10% of our income to funded missions.

**MOTION:** to Approve 2019 Operating Budget, Ged McLean

**Seconded:** Clayton Savage

**Questions & Discussion**

**VOTE: CARRIED**

**9. MOTION to accept OTHER REPORTS as circulated: John Laidlaw**

**SECONDED:** Stacy McGhee

**Comments:**

Stacy – thanked Shannon for her Children’s Ministry Report – wondered about numbers? Is attendance down – are there fewer children coming to church? Shannon responded that – yes – there do seem to be fewer children around on some Sundays – but – partly this is a question of age – that some younger ones have now moved up to Youth Group and Caleb has quite a crew in his ministry. But other than that, Shannon said her own ministry is to attend to the children who do come and not worry about the “numbers.”

**General talk about attendance numbers.**

Gerilynn Robinson: wondered if talk of Christopher’s retirement was having an impact on attendance?

John Laidlaw: observed that there is a lot of ‘external noise’ in people’s lives – they are busy with all kinds of commitments. All we can really do is keep on being the community that we are and

Beth Macdonald commented on a new refrain used in the Prayers of the People and hoped that it would be used again.

Ruth McGhee said she missed the parish newsletter ‘The Rocker’ and wondered if it was time to resurrect the idea – that she would be interested in helping if others would like to participate.

**VOTE:** to accept other Reports – **CARRIED**

**11. No Council Members were elected by ballot and so, there were no ballots to be destroyed.**

**12. Further Questions or Comments**

Ceal McLean – Undesignated contingency ministry \$12,000 line item in the Budget?

Karen Van Rheenen spoke to this – Council wants to take a look at staff resources Karen Fenimore had been serving as Community

Caleb has Youth from grade 7 to grade 12 in his group – that doesn't make good sense – so several areas that could be addressed.

Larry Anthony: If people have suggestions they should communicate them to either of the Wardens or a Council member and they will bring it up at the next parish council meeting.

Clayton Savage – “Search Committee” – new name (from ‘Selection Committee’)

Christopher – Mel Zimmerman, a member of our 11:15 congregation is a Human Resources professional and has been helping us ‘tweak’ our list of priorities and our strategy for identifying the new Associate Priest.

Mel added that it would be an accommodation of both “push and pull strategies” – using the internet and networking – not so much in “head hunting” – but in “shoulder tapping” – that all should be involved in

Search Committee members meets Wednesday, January 30, 2019 with the Bishop and will discuss question of the degree to which the parish / diocese can help someone make a move to this diocese. (Coming from some cities across the country, candidates would find the cost of living much higher in Victoria.)

### **13. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Introduction of new Council** at the end of the 9:00 AM service on Sunday, February 3, 2018 and Introduction at beginning of 11:15 Service on Sunday, Feb 3, 2019.

Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month.

The first meeting of new Parish Council is Tuesday, February 19, 2019.

### **14. MOTION TO ADJOURN – Stacy McGhee**

**VOTE: CARRIED** Unanimously

All stand and say The Grace.

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## **St. Philip Parish—In Memoriam 2019**

Vivienne Gent ✠ Marilyn Berry

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## STATISTICS

**Comparing average Sunday attendance over three years:  
2017 (Jan 1-Dec 31)    2018 (Jan 7-Dec 30)    2019 (Jan 6-Dec 29)**

	8:00	9:00	11:15	Jazz	Joint	Sunday Total	Week Total
<b>2017</b>	14.3	124.2	27.3	48.6	149	<b>173.5</b>	<b>189.9</b>
<b>2018</b>	16.4	115.2	24.0	56.7	129	<b>162.3</b>	<b>177.4</b>
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 2017 AND 2018	<b>+2.4</b>	<b>-9.0</b>	<b>-3.3</b>	<b>+8.1</b>		<b>-11.2</b>	<b>-12.5</b>
<b>2019</b>	16.1	106.5	19.4	61.8	115	<b>150.2</b>	<b>169.4</b>
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 2018 AND 2019	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-8.7</b>	<b>-4.6</b>	<b>+5.1</b>		<b>-12.1</b>	<b>-8.0</b>

NOTES: In 2017, Christmas Eve fell on a Sunday. The evening services have been excluded from that week's Total Sunday, but included in the Weekly Total.

In 2019 there were two Monday Jazz Vespers; these services are included in the Jazz Vespers and Total Weekly averages, but not in the Total Sunday amount for those Sundays.

### Other statistics for 2019, 2018, and 2017

<b>Services</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
BAPTISMS	2	6	4
CONFIRMATIONS	5	0	0
MARRIAGES	2	0	1
FUNERALS	2	2	4
Thursday Eucharist 10:00 AM	6	7	5
Good Friday 10:00 AM	90	105	109
Easter Sunday total (three services)	290	262	375
Christmas Pageant	153	145	98
Christmas Eve:    5:00 PM Family Eucharist	188	215	261
8:00 PM Traditional Eucharist	55	55	48
10:30 AM Christmas Day	45	45	52

*Respectfully submitted by Alice Jourmel*

## **Rector's Annual Report for 2019**

### **Christopher Page – Report #32 to the Parish of St. Philip, Oak Bay**

(first report January 1988 for 1987 after 8 months as Associate Rector;  
1994 report for 1993 after 2 months as Rector)

Every year sometime in December I begin to wrestle with my Annual Great Dilemma:

How do I sum up, let alone assess, the past year in the life of the faith community in which I serve?

Looking back over the year past is not an irrelevant, nor a merely self-indulgent exercise. It is important to seek to take a clear look at the life we share. I try always to be honest and transparent about this community of St. Philip. I do not want us to live in denial of the state of things as they are. And it is important to me that I hold myself accountable to the community within which I serve for the life we have shared over the past twelve months.

But evaluation of a faith community is a tricky task.

How can I possibly measure the amount of gentleness, goodwill, peace, and well-being that are released into the universe and manifest in the world by people who gather regularly seeking to open to that Spirit of light, love and truth that, as Christians, we believe were fully embodied in the person of Jesus?

I cannot begin to tally the number of acts of kindness that have been facilitated in the past year by the connections, shared vision, and open-heartedness of this community. To name any of these generous acts is to leave numerous acts unmentioned and so to diminish the power and beauty of our life together.

2019 has been a year of generosity. The giving that has flowed through St. Philip has had an impact in our local community but has also spread around the world. I was deeply touched by the beauty of our community when I stood at the arrivals gate of the Victoria International Airport on Thursday 14 November and watched as Badr came through the sliding doors and was greeted by his sister and her children. The warmth, gentleness and love that filled this moment felt like a microcosm of the spirit I have experienced in our midst over and over in the past year. This cannot be measured. It exists in a realm that surpasses all assessment.

But it would be less than honest not to acknowledge that in any quantifiable means of measurement, we have been in 2019, a somewhat diminished community.

We have experienced a decline in our financial offerings. For only the second time in the past six years, in 2019 we recorded a drop in giving, this past year considerably greater than the last time which was 2015. Thanks to generous bequests left by members of our community, and the responsible leadership of those who look after our finances, we remain in a strong and healthy financial situation. But we need to pay attention to the reality of a change that seems to be on the horizon in the way we are able to operate financially. The financial pressures of

life in Victoria are severe and there is no indication that there is much relief on the horizon. It is not that people are less generous today; but for many people there is less income available for charitable giving than was once the case.

We have also experienced a decline in average Sunday attendance at both the 9:00 and 11:15 services in the past year. There are many ways to explain this decline, most of which we have no ability to control. And we are certainly nowhere near reaching any kind of crisis point in our attendance. But again, we need to be aware of the current realities of our community.

Perhaps more challenging than either attendance or finances is the fact that we are also facing a decline in people available to share in ministry in the church. It takes many people offering many unpaid hours of time, energy and commitment, to keep any church in operation. We are blessed at St. Philip with people who give generously to support our life together. But, in the past year, it has become more difficult to fill some of the many jobs that require attention for our community to operate.

So, how are we to respond when our community feels strong, healthy, creative and blessed with people who are deeply committed but, at the same time, we are experiencing decline in the measurable standards of our life?

The first thing I am clear about, is that I remain committed to resisting any temptation to use pressure, guilt, manipulation, or demand to generate giving, attendance or involvement. We want to be a community in which people feel moved by the Spirit to offer themselves in whatever way genuinely works for their life. We do not want simply to be one more burden in peoples' lives. But there are things that must get done. And, some people are filling in the gaps doing more than may be sustainable.

I also resist any sense of urgency in addressing the reality of our current situation. We are not in any crisis. We remain strong and healthy. The past year has been filled with moments of incredible light, beauty and generosity. But, even if we were in serious decline, I would still not want to resort to panic or foreboding. I hope we will always start from a place of trust, openness and peace in the midst of uncertainty.

I hope we will not give in to the temptation to pull back, to become fearful and protective of the resources with which we have been entrusted. This is not a time to be timid. We must not allow ourselves to become defined by a sense of scarcity or lack. God's provision is abundant. We have all we need to be the people God is calling us to be. I pray that we may continue to live boldly and generously the life of generosity and faith we see modelled in Jesus.

This is God's church. God's Spirit dwells in every person and, when hearts open, that Spirit will move each person to the degree of involvement and giving that is right for that person.

But, let us be clear, culture is changing around us. There is no longer any social pressure to support church involvement. And, even for those who do find spiritual nourishment in church, weekly attendance and involvement beyond Sundays is becoming more and more challenging in the face of life's demands and the range of other options available for spending one's time.

Average Sunday attendance in the Anglican Church of Canada over sixteen years from 2001 to 2017 declined from 162,168 to 94,421. Volunteerism in every sector of society is increasingly difficult to generate. And the number of financial donors in Canada has dropped in the years 2012 to 2016 to a point where, in 2016, only 20.5 per cent of Canadian tax filers claimed donations on their tax returns; the median donation was \$300.

I was intrigued last month to see a report in the Saanich News indicating that only 13.9% of readers had plans to go out to celebrate New Year's Eve. Twenty years ago, this would have been unimaginable. New Year's Eve was a huge party night. Everyone had somewhere to go. This suggests that people are increasingly staying close to home.

I do not believe that the circumstances facing churches need to be, or can be, fixed. I believe we need to acknowledge honestly the real challenges we face, while, at the same time, remaining an island of stability, sanity, and calm in the midst of uncertainty, change, and confusion. We will only be able to fulfill our unique calling as church, if we begin by reclaiming within ourselves that deep settled peacefulness and gentleness that comes from renewing our awareness of the Presence of Christ in our lives, in our community and in the world in which we seek to do church.

Church exists, before all else, to help us open to that place of inner strength and security where we can reside in faith and trust. Our first task is to remember that

**The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,  
my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,  
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. (Psalm 18:2)**

Therefore, as the Bible repeats over and over, there is nothing to fear. We can open our hearts to trust and find in Christ our true security. Whatever the future may bring, we will meet the reality of our situation with boldness and confidence in God.

Parish Council made a conscious, and I believe, wise decision in November 2019 to send out no further financial updates to the congregation for the year. Our treasurer has faithfully kept the parish informed about our financial situation and the trend of our freewill offerings. We choose to trust that people are contributing to our shared life to the level they feel called and able. We choose not to pester you with further requests for money or involvement.

It is impossible to know what the future may hold. But we move forward into the unknown with confidence, hope and trust.

On the first Sunday of Advent at the end of 2019, I pointed in my sermon to the question Jesus asked in Matthew 24:

**Who then is the faithful and wise slave, whom his master has put in charge of his household, to give the other slaves their allowance of food at the proper time? (Matthew 24:45)**



I suggested that this question carries the vision for what Jesus believes is the Christian way of life and hence the way of the church. We exist to “give the other slaves their allowance of food at the proper time.” We are to be food for the well-being of others. We are food for others when we nurture the qualities of love, gentleness, kindness, goodness and compassion in our own lives and support the growth of these gifts in the lives of others.

As long as we continue to be a community that nourishes love and kindness, we do not really need to worry much about the measurables of our community life. Love will always find a way. The Spirit will never be stopped as long as hearts remain open to the movement of that truth and beauty which Jesus embodied.

Over the thirty-two years (twenty-six as Rector) I have spent in ordained ministry in this place, my experience has frequently been that we are a community that desires to be open to the Spirit of Jesus. We are a group of people who seek to embody the gentleness, goodness, wisdom and compassion that are the power of Christ at work among us. This has been true on so many levels in our life together, far too many to name. But it starts with the leadership of our church.

I frequently say that one of the main things that has enabled me to continue in ministry at St. Philip for so long has been the leadership with whom I am privileged to share in this community. For the past eight years, this has been particularly true as we have been blessed by the gracious, wise, deeply committed, creative and gentle leadership provided by Sharon Richmond as warden. Sharon is retiring from her position as warden at St. Philip but will continue to support and nurture our community life with her many gifts and loving spirit. I am personally deeply grateful to Sharon for her years of faithful prayerful ministry among us.

In my first Annual Report as Rector of St. Philip for the year 1993 I wrote:

It is a great challenge to be a Christian Church today. It is not an easy task to live in obedience to Jesus Christ in the world. We face complex, often confusing issues in our lives as well as in the church., It is not always immediately obvious what is the right thing to do in every situation. I trust that our only desire is to move together in the direction which we believe God is calling us to go. I hope what we may be able to remain open, flexible and charitable as we move together into God future for us as his people.

Twenty-six years later, it seems to me it is worth hearing these words again.

In my report to the parish last year I acknowledged that in August 2019, I would turn sixty-five. Apparently, the Government of Canada believes that did happen on my last birthday and I am now officially a “Senior Citizen”. I said last year that we were working on a process at St. Philip to find “the best way forward for this community” in light of the fact that my retirement could not be “many years away”. We continue to try to implement the plan we had at that time. I am enormously grateful to those who have been working prayerfully to find a person who might come among us and share in ministry with the hope that this might make it possible for me to ease graciously into retirement.

It would be less than entirely honest if I were not to acknowledge that the prospect of retirement at a time of decline, leaves me with a little bit of sadness. But I am clear that I never entered this business of ordained ministry in order to grow an institutional structure or build a little “Christopher kingdom”.

My vision for ministry settled years ago into the belief that we are called to be a vehicle for heart-opening. I continue to believe that this remains our first task. When our hearts open, we find the strength, love, peace, compassion, gentleness, and wisdom of Jesus that are our true nature. There is nothing more we need. This may manifest in a smaller community in the future than in the past. We need to be able to be at peace with this possibility and avoid any move towards panic, agitation or manipulation in an attempt to generate energy and commitment.

I am so grateful for the many ways in which I see faithfulness and love embodied in and through this community. I know that Love is at work among us. I know we are growing day by day in our ability to be the people God created us to be. What more assessment could we possibly need?

God Bless you all,  
*Christopher*

## **Wardens’ Report**

Almost every year the Wardens begin their report by saying what a privilege it is to witness what goes on at St. Philip day by day throughout the year. And there is a reason for this; when one sees close-hand the comings and goings, the workings of the staff and volunteers, the thoughtful and gentle care taken of one another, the gifts of time and talent and love expended, the energy and love that colours the space in our building. It is tangible, a fragrance, one can sense it even when the building is empty. God is present here, of that there is no doubt. God is in the business of working miracles – big ones, tiny ones – through the people that jostle through this space. “See how they love one another?” That is what we get to witness as wardens! It is a fine job!!!

Some of our favourite things to see are people sharing who they are, offering their gifts to one another. It might be a workshop to help people discern their career goals, it might be learning how to maintain the website, how to work the spreadsheets for our weekly givings, to operate the sound system or the overheads. It might be celebrating with a new ordinand and priest, it might be climbing a ladder and hanging your art, it might be offering a space to be still in preparation for Advent, it might be teaching a confirmation class, being the priest relief so Christopher and Heather can get away for their holidays. It might be filming a church service or editing the film for a video to go on our website, it might be organizing the Sunday picnic, or herding people into a Christmas pageant, or choosing hymns for a service, or brightening the Christmas lunch with music, or bringing people together for Lessons and Carols. It might be a big endeavour like the Great Canadian Hymn Sing, or a small endeavour like reading stories to

our nursery little ones, or corralling the energy of our young, or responding to penetrating questions of our teens. Perhaps it's the quiet work of bookkeeping, serving, arranging flowers, printing pew leaflets, washing dishcloths. Perhaps it's visiting a shut-in, taking a meal to someone, or searching for a new Associate Priest. See how they love one another?

How blessed we are!

*Sharon Richmond and Karen Van Rheenen*

**a note from Christopher:** It sometimes frightens me how much we require of the two people who fulfill the primary non-ordained leadership role in our community. But, Karen Van Rheenen and Sharon Richmond (who is mentioned in my annual report) have stepped up to the plate over and over in the past year with enormous grace and generosity. They have been a tireless support in our ministry and covered so many things that would otherwise slip by unnoticed.... until we noticed. I depend upon them for their wisdom, wisdom and commitment.

## **Parish Council**

**a note from Christopher:** Parish Council is the primary body of leadership at St. Philip. We meet once a month except in July and August. I depend upon this group of leaders in our church for wisdom, insight and counsel. This group sets the tone for our life together. We operate with openness and a spirit of cooperation that supports the life of this community in vital ways.

## **Office Administration**

This November marked the fourth anniversary of my becoming a member of St. Philip, both as an employee and as a parishioner. I believe I have grown considerably in my capacity as an office administrator during that time, with the support and guidance of Christopher, the three Wardens I've worked with, Chris Harvey, Karen Van Rheenen, and Sharon Richmond, and my predecessor, Gillian Fosdick.

The tasks I undertook throughout the year fell into four main categories, in addition to staff and volunteer support, and other miscellaneous duties:

- document production and publication (bulletins, booklets, posters etc);
- volunteer management and scheduling (lesson readers at the 9:00 am and 11:15 am services as well as at special services; and at the 9:00 am service, chalice bearers and praise music teams);
- reception and communication duties (answering phone, email, and in-person inquiries; coordinating and scheduling hall and church use bookings)

- providing technical support to staff and volunteers (posting sermon recordings to the website; managing the staff email system; troubleshooting software, printer, and overhead issues)

In May, I coordinated the transfer of most of the staff and some volunteers to a new Microsoft Office 365 email system. This was a major endeavour, encouraged by the Synod Office to facilitate consistency and intra-Diocesan communication.

On August 12, I traveled to St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church in Chemainus for an all-day Parish Administrators Day organized and facilitated by Synod Office staff. The day included presentations from Judith Coleman (Reception), Catherine Pate (Communications Officer), and Tara Syracuse (Executive Assistant to the Bishop). I valued the opportunity to hear directly from the Synod Office staff about various initiatives, to share information with office administrators from across the Diocese, and to see old friends.

In the last fourteen months I have also had the honour of collaborating with Caleb Hosie on several events for young adults at St. Philip. We hosted a movie and discussion night in December 2018 and another in January 2019, and co-hosted a BBQ in June. I hope to continue to facilitate events for this demographic in the coming year.

I mentioned at the beginning of this report that November saw the beginning of my fifth year at St. Philip, but I reached milestone of a different step on October 27, when Bishop Logan presided at a Joint Service and Confirmed five St. Philip parishioners, including myself, and Received two others. Preparing for this service was a major undertaking both professionally and personally, and I'm grateful for the support and assistance of Christopher, for the fellowship of my fellow candidates, and for the preparation of the initial draft of the bulletin by Gillian.

Lastly, I owe many thanks to Pat Kilner, who assists me weekly in the office with proof-reading, folding, stapling bulletins and other tasks crucial to the preparation for our Sunday Services. Her dedication, patience, attention to detail, and humor are an invaluable gift to the smooth operation of the Church Office, and her friendship has been a blessing to me.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Alice Jourmel, Office Administrator*

**a note from Christopher:** The number of details that need to be attended to through the church office at St. Philip is often a bit overwhelming. Alice Jourmel is always willing to jump in and do whatever seems to be needed to keep our community in operation. She is a cheerful presence, a technological genius, who regularly rescues me from tech-hell, and a cooperative energetic presence in our midst.

## Children's Ministry

Children are warmly welcomed as part of our worship life together at St. Philip Church. Tables with crafts and Lego in our worship space let kids know that Church is a place for them. At St. Philip, kids are expected to be kids. We embrace a bit of chaos and a bit of noise. We value children's presence and participation in worship.

Each Sunday before Sunday School, the children come to the front of the church where we practice a time of silence and where a time of child-focused teaching takes place. During Lent and Advent, children participate in readings and lighting or extinguishing of seasonal candles. The children go downstairs for Sunday School during the sermon time, and return for communion.

Sunday School is divided up into 3 groups: Nursery 0-3; a younger Sunday School group, ages 3-7; and an older Sunday School group, otherwise known as The Junior Youth Group, ages 8-11. The groupings are flexible, allowing children to be with friends or comfort levels.

Children in the two Sunday School groups are most often taught the same subject, but how the subjects are presented is different for each group. The younger children are more active and have simpler lessons, and the older children are challenged to have some knowledge of the Bible and apply the lessons to their lives. Lessons take many forms: big and small group discussions, games, activities, crafts, skits, videos, detective work, challenges, songs, science experiments, and baking. Additionally, each week we pray together and share a snack.

Each week, the Junior Youth Group looks up passages or stories in the Bible. In this modern age of on-line Bibles, having an understanding of how the Bible is laid out and a general idea of where to find stories will serve them well.

Sunday mornings are geared toward experiencing God, having fun and building relationships between peers and teachers.

In the beginning of the new year we focus on the stories of Jesus from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We explored Jesus' human and Godly nature. This year we focused on the miracles he performed: calming storms and walking on water, healing of the blind and the paralytic, feeding crowds, and healing broken hearts.

In the late spring we were reminded how we can depend on God by eating candy! Give God your worries when life twists us up like Twizzlers. Gummy Worms remind us to depend on God for forgiveness when we are feeling low. Don't be squishy like marshmallows but depend on God to be strong and courageous. Gummy Bear science experiments and bear hugs remind us we can depend on God's love.

In the summer we went outside on the lawn to play wide games and learn about the Prophets. Jonah, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah, Zephaniah, Jeremiah, and Daniel spoke on behalf of God to the people. The prophets' messages most often reminded people what a Godly life looked like.

In the fall we read stories from the Old Testament. We walked in the desert and set up camp with Abram and Sari. We tried to put all the stories about Moses in the right order. We walked

around the city of Jericho blowing lamb-ram-sheep-horns until the walls came a tumbling down. We built a boat, got thrown overboard, then climbed inside an inflatable whale and imagined the fishy smell Jonah had to put up with for three whole days! We learned about Job's terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day.

During Advent we learned about Hope, Peace, Joy and Love and we practiced for the Pageant. Some people played hockey and some made Christmas ornaments.

During the year there were many memorable days: Easter egg hunt on Easter, Mother's Day making granola gifts from scratch, Father's Day watermelon served on the lawn, Sunday School-A-Palooza bouncy castle and Welcome Sunday Carnival with the Youth Group, Orange Shirt Day bannock baking and discussion about reconciliation, and the fun games and lunch at the Church Picnic.

All the children participated in making a feather motif stole which we presented to Christopher and St. Philip Church on Orange Shirt Day. Many children brought art they had created to be displayed over the summer in the Stairwell Art Gallery.

I give many thanks to the dedicated team of Children's Ministry volunteers. They not only teach in Sunday School, they make all of us laugh and think during the Children's Time, and they care for the smallest members of our community and their families in the Nursery. I am grateful for all of the gifts they share with us.

Scott Alexander, Kim Paulo, Stace McGhee, Stephanie Stone, Brenda Hosie, Pieter Koopmans, Ian Bekker, Annette Fieltsch, Jennifer Sharlow-Tucker, Barbara DiLucca, Andrea Wynne, Ruth McGhee, Becky Tuffin, Christopher Page, Daniel Cownden, Karen Fallon, Bronwyn McLean, Gillian Rhodes, Heather Page, Joan Sedgwick, Karen Van Rheenen, Lillian Konkin, Sharon Richmond, Norma Gray.

There are a few special thank yous which need mentioning. Gerianne Knowles-Robson stepped in for me while I took vacation time in April. Jenni Jennings shared her talents with the Sunday School in preparation for the Christmas Pageant. Sharon Richmond has overseen the scheduling of the Nursery Team's roster. Thank you for your extra efforts and dedication.

This year we have hired Gerianne Knowles-Robson to be an assistant to the Children's Ministry team. We are noticing Sunday morning volunteers are not as consistent and so Gerianne's presence will offset this need. Her job is to support the program on Sunday mornings by leading groups or making crafts and snacks appear and messes disappear. I am very thankful to have her beside me as she brings many amazing, gentle, caring qualities to our team.

This September marked my 10th year in the position of Children's Minister at St. Philip. I continue to be honoured to serve you and our children.

*Shannon Carmichael*

**a note from Christopher:** It may not have escaped notice that I cherish the children of our community. They are such a gift. I am so grateful for the respectful, steady, loving way in which Shannon Carmichael continues to nurture the little ones of our church. Shannon carries this ministry with an open-hearted grace that is a blessing to us all.

## Youth Ministry

Greetings St. Philip!

In January, inspired through conversation with Christopher and Tracey Morris, we ran the Youth Alpha program. The program took us to just after Spring Break, and gave a fun, video-based opportunity for discussion. Throughout each video, there were three questions where we would hit pause, and in couch groups discuss questions. We had many people contribute to helping make the environment welcoming through the form of snacks – thank you so much for your help! Through the movie series, students had fun watching the videos, but were also able to engage with thirteen different topics such as the “Cross,” the “Bible,” or “Prayer.” They had the opportunity to ask questions, and share their thoughts as we traversed our way through the series. To cap off the Alpha series, we hosted Christopher downstairs for an added “Anglicanism” topic. This was well enjoyed as the kids fired all of the questions they had his way.

Also in January, Gavin McGhee and Jessica Ryan started helping out leading discussions on Sunday mornings, running bi-weekly events, and joined in on the planning nights on Tuesday. After a few months of the extra help, we offered to them a stipend. Jessica chose to continue to offer her time as a volunteer. Gavin accepted this, and so based off a few hours a week continues to help out with the youth group. This will continue in 2020.

The youth group set out a New Year’s Challenge. We aimed to collect 500 pairs of socks and gloves, and to go skiing and hot tubbing. This year, we were able to collect 524 pairs of socks and gloves for Street Hope and Our Place thanks to the contributions of the members of St. Philip and some of the fundraising done by the teens. Thank you for your help in that! We postponed our ski trip to January because of the delayed snow fall, and by the time you are reading this hopefully it was a success and we were able to cap off the New Years Challenge (though slightly delayed!).

This past year two retreats were proposed. We decided to drop the camping trip to Salt Spring Island in late spring as we did not hit our threshold for numbers, and went ahead with the 8 day sailing trip through Desolation Sound. The 8 day trip was done in partner-ship with an old St. Philip member, Jim Sepkowski on his 52 ft wooden schooner: *Marjyke Violet*. Leading up to the trip we ran the car wash in the spring and went to Discovery Island just off Victoria to do a day of pulling invasive species: ivy! Our church made a \$1000 contribution and the Diocese gave us a scholarship. The trip was a great amount of fun together. We were blessed with great weather, good stories, great food, and a longing for another trip. A big shout out to all of the people that helped make this trip possible!

Aside from the sailing trip, the summer time is typically slower for youth group, so we chose to scale back the events by doing one Saturday night a month. On Sunday mornings we helped out with junior youth and Sunday school outside or had a discussion downstairs.

Fall is always a great time to welcome new faces into the youth group as they cross over from junior youth group. This fall, we added about nine grade 7's! We have been going through the Gospel of Matthew on Sundays, playing games, and hearing how each other's weeks have been. Starting this December, we also decided to add high-school events on the Friday nights every second week in addition to the regular events. The high-schoolers went rock climbing, helped out at Street Hope, and had a couple discussion nights.

This year we helped out with the Shelbourne Community Kitchen at their spring garden fundraiser and in the fall we helped prepare one of their gardens for rest. We helped serve some sandwiches and coffee at Street Hope, and planted some plants and bushes at the Welland Legacy Orchard this year. Every second month, we have hosted the Sunday morning coffee time downstairs, and the service has been quite good! The Missions Committee decided that they wanted to bless the youth group with the opportunity to decide what they wanted to do with \$1000. We used some of the funds to buy some gloves for the work that we were doing on Discovery Island and other gardens. We also chose to donate to Opportunity International, a micro-lending initiative where people in developing countries are able to apply for a loan for education or business, and then repay the money such that it can be used for another loan. As well, we decided to sponsor a child through Canadian Food for the Hungry. For \$38 a month, we are sponsoring Bruno in Mbale, Uganda and helping contribute to his education, health, clean water, and income-generating programs for his dad. The youth group will continue to sponsor Bruno and will be doing some initiatives to support the \$38 a month once the funds from the mission committee are used up at the end of August.

This fall Ruth Dantzer introduced another volunteer youth leader from UVic to the mix: Grace. Grace started helping out, and was a key to the success of the Christmas pageant. As many of you may know, she is also taking over the youth group, which is fantastic. As I head to New Zealand, it is a bittersweet good bye. I am excited to leave the youth group with the leaders that have taken over and are filled with passion and connection with the youth. I will miss the youth group and the church as New Zealand opens up new opportunities. Thanks for the amazing 3 years of support in my time as youth leader.

May God bless you all,  
*Caleb*

**a note from Christopher:** The Young People of our community are a great gift. Caleb Hosie has done a wonderful job keeping our Youth involved and engaged during his three years of ministry at St. Philip. As Caleb launches into new adventures in ministry, we are hopeful that we will not lose touch and confident that, as Grace Bodie takes on this role, Caleb's good work will continue to prosper.



## **Verger**

I officially took over the role of Verger in February 2019, continuing the duties of cleaning and maintenance of the Church undertaken for the prior 6 months.

Maintaining the weekly cleaning schedule and associated tasks has been the prime focus during the year; ensuring tasks were completed on time, repairs done and janitorial stocks maintained. Minor repairs have been undertaken to chairs, tables & doors as well as other miscellaneous items throughout the year. Various plumbing fixes in the kitchen & bathrooms, lighting fixture repairs and bulb replacement throughout the church.

Other duties undertaken including supporting various church functions, assisting with special events (funerals etc), monthly required duties completed, stage setup/takedown and new coverage for sound system use during events – training was received during the year.

Communicating was maintained with the preschool to keep good transitions each week for the basement area. Bill Bradley was kind enough to become a support to the Verger in the last month of 2019, ensuring seamless coverage for the role on the weekend.

*Neal Tucker*

**a note from Christopher:** Neal Tucker has been a gift and a blessing as he has stepped into his role as Verger/Caretaker at St. Philip. He goes quietly about his tasks, pays attention to things that need to be attended to and is extremely willing to jump in and do whatever might be necessary to help keep our facility serving us well.

## **Worship**

**a note from Christopher:** I believe that worship is the first and most essential thing we do as a church. Everything else flows from our worship. Our worship life at St. Philip is supported by so many faithful people who serve with sensitivity and commitment. At our 8:00 a.m. service John Laidlaw is as reliable as clockwork in assisting in leadership and service Sunday by Sunday. At the 9:00 service it has been a gift to me for us to be able to welcome Ruth Dantzer on occasion into leadership in worship as she began to explore her ministry as a Deacon and now continues as a priest among us. At the 11:15 it is a great blessing and relief to me to be able to step back for a moment as Gillian Fosdick takes on a leadership role in our worship and on Morning Prayer Sundays once a month as Bruce Fyfe assumes a leadership role.

## **Family Services Music Report**

During 2019, the music for the 9 a.m. family services were again led by four to five regular volunteer praise groups supplemented through three seasons by Jen Strohschein in her official, paid role. Jen provided leadership on the Sundays that could not be covered by the regular groups. I am so thankful to Jen for this as without her, we don't have enough groups to

fill the schedule and it becomes lopsided and ultimately unsustainable. Looking ahead, we will also need someone to give Jen seasonal relief in her role to keep things in balance.

Thank you to the groups who so faithfully volunteer on a regular basis each season. Thank you especially to our new and longstanding volunteer singers who have stepped up over the year on an ad hoc basis to lead singing in regular worship and at the Christmas Pageant. Thank you to our youth – Annabelle, Ian and Iona in particular – who have helped leading the praise music.

Thank you to our faithful sound crew. We have gained new talent in this department in the past year and I am grateful to Allan, Grace and Scott for coming forward (or rather, to the back) to help Mario and Susan with this indispensable ministry. The music is only as good as it is audible and balanced.

Thank you to our stalwart overhead projector team: Susan, Kathy, Dana and Alice. Here we are in need of more volunteers to come forward to help out and make this sustainable. Thanks to Allan's swift and efficient replacement of both computer and projector this year, the technology is more reliable and the job much less scary. Many of us actually perform more complex techie feats with our phones on a daily basis! Please speak to Susan if you are willing to explore helping with this ministry.

I continue to be immensely grateful to Susan and Alice for their service and hard work in keeping the wheels on the praise music bus. Without Susan and Alice's schedules, each service would begin by looking around hopefully to see if someone would make music, shine the lyrics on the overhead screen and run sound so we can hear song and speech beyond the first few pews. It would be such a blessing if they didn't have to include themselves on the rotas they make quite so often! I want to especially thank Alice for all the times she steps up to sing whenever she's needed, and Susan for doing the same running sound as well as overhead.

Altogether, there were over thirty people who helped with the music at various times during the year. We continue to be greatly blessed by the talents of so many in our congregation.

*Respectfully submitted by Dave Conway*

**a note from Christopher:** The one person Dave Conway forgot to thank in his Music Report is of course Dave Conway. Dave's willingness to serve in music leadership continues to be a tremendous blessing to us as a community. Dave is unfailingly reliable, flexible and willing to step in to make things work. He shares his musical gifts in leadership and his skills in supporting our worship life with tremendous grace. Our worship is the most important thing we do as a church and music is one of the most vital elements of our worship. Thank you Dave for your generosity and ministry among us.

## Music Ministry 11:15

**a note from Christopher:** Our Music Ministry at the 11:15 service has been a little bit in limbo for the past three months as Jill Ann Siemens has been unable to accompany our music on the keyboard due to an injury. We remain not entirely clear what the future holds for music at 11:15 but have been greatly blessed by Julian Greenwood's willingness to step in and fill-in during Jill Ann's absence. The 11:15 congregation remains a small but faithful community of worshipers who continue to uphold the more traditional style in Anglican practice.

## Prayers of the People

There are a number of people involved in the prayers of the people each week at St. Philip Church.

Alice Jourmel writes the prayers of the people for the pew leaflet each Sunday.

During the 8:00 service, John Laidlaw assists in the service and offers the prayers.

During the 9:00 service, Mark Graham, Chris Harvey, Ruth McGhee, Tracey Morris, Christopher Page, Sharon Richmond and David Rolfe have offered the prayers.

During the 11:15 service, Gillian Fosdick assists in the service and offers the prayers.

*Praying, by Mary Oliver*

It doesn't have to be  
The blue iris, it could be  
Weeds in a vacant lot, or a few  
Small stones; just  
Pay attention, then patch

A few words together and don't try  
To make them elaborate, this isn't  
A contest but the doorway

Into thanks, and a silence in which  
Another voice may speak.

We are grateful for each person who is involved in this ministry.

*Sharon Richmond*

**a note from Christopher:** It gladdens my heart each Sunday when I am able to sit back for a moment and hear another voice raised in prayer. It is such a gift that we are able to be blessed by this public demonstration of our shared ministry. The Prayers of the People at both 9:00 and 11:15 are always presented with sensitivity and a depth of care and compassion that speak well of the heart of this community.

## Altar Guild

St. Philip Altar Guild continues faithfully to prepare the church for all services, decorate at major festivals, and ensure necessary supplies are available for our activities.

This year several members have worked to produce new linens. Three new purificators were blessed for use at services and there are more in process. A new Trinity banner, made by Sherry Armstrong, was also added to our collection. As part of our decorating, it was decided at Thanksgiving and Christmas to use some of the funds so generously donated by the congregation to purchase food offerings. These were donated after the services to the Shelbourne Community Kitchen and Street Hope respectively.

We currently have 12 active members and 4 meetings are held per year. Summer and winter meetings are on a Tuesday evening at the home of a member and spring and summer meetings are at the church on a Tuesday morning at 9:30 am. Meetings are announced in the bulletin and we welcome anyone who wishes to find out more about the Altar Guild.

*Felicity Bradley, Secretary*

### Altar Guild Financial Report

The Altar Guild has maintained a separate bank account for depositing funds from parishioners for flowers placed on the altar. The flowers purchased were also paid for from this account. Other costs covered this bank included anniversary flowers; decorating for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas; and supplies used to make some of the banners and pew decorations. Other items managed by the Altar Guild have included communion wafers, communion wine. These have always been paid for by the Church. It was decided to move all deposits and payments for Altar Guild operations to the Church account. This took place in June of this year.

The Altar Guild's financial report for this year is as follows:

Total Deposits to Church acct - 2019	1,433.45
Total Deposits to Altar Guild Bank - 2019 (includes bank bal from 2018)	1,784.60
<b>Total Deposits for Altar Flowers - 2019</b>	<b>3,218.05</b>
<hr/>	
Total Withdrawals from Church acct - 2019	1,459.53
Total Withdrawals from Altar Guild Bank acct - 2019	1,076.11
<b>Total Withdrawals for Altar Flowers - 2019</b>	<b>2,535.64</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Net Change (Deposits less expenses)</b>	<b>682.41</b>

*Kathy Fyfe, Treasurer*

**a note from Christopher:** Without the faithful ministry of our Altar Guild, our worship would quickly grind to a halt. I am so grateful to the steady reliable women who carry on this valuable

ministry in our life together. I am also tremendously grateful to Sherry Armstrong for the creativity and energy she has put into creating new banners for our worship space.

## **Chalice Bearers – 9:00 AM Service**

The lay assistants in the administration of Communion serve in the celebration of the Eucharist by bearing the Chalice. St. Philip in 2019 was blessed by the contributions in this ministry of Annette Fieltsch, Bonnie Pipes, Brenda Hosie, Bruce Richmond, Clayton Savage, Dana Reiter, Esther Graham, Evelyn Savage, Heather Page, Jennifer Clarke, Joan Sedgwick, Kathy Fyfe, Larry Anthony, Margot Spence, Mark Graham, Mike Pipes, Raymond Fieltsch, Rob Hosie, and Sarah Holloway.

Thank you to all the chalice bearers for your offering up your time and presence. The 9:00 a.m. chalice bearer schedule is generally prepared for two to four months at a time, and each two-person team serves approximately once every eight weeks. If you are interested in being added to our chalice bearer roster in 2020, please speak with Christopher.

*Respectfully submitted, Alice Jourmel*

**a note from Christopher:** Sunday by Sunday Chalice Bearers move among us in worship as a tangible reminder that our ministry in the church is a shared calling. We exist to serve one another and as our Chalice Bearers serve at the table during Communion, they are a visible sign of our call to service to one another.

## **Lesson Readers**

The Lesson Readers at the 9:00 am and 11:15 am services allow us to experience hearing God's Word together as a community. Thank you to all the readers at the 9:00 am service in 2019: Alice Jourmel, Barbara Di Lucca, Bonnie Pipes, Bruce Richmond, Caleb Hosie, Clayton Savage, David Bird, Dorothy O'Donnell, Heather Page, Jennifer Sharlow, Kathy Chan, Kathy Fyfe, Larry Anthony, Liz Vickers, Mike Pipes, Rachel Page, Renée Reese, and Sharon Richmond.

I am equally grateful for the readers at the 11:15 am services: Barbara Fosdick, Bruce Fyfe, Gillian Fosdick, Judith Slimmon, Karen Fenimore, Nancy Geddes, Pat Kilner, Russel Harp, Sherry Armstrong, Sue MacLeod, and Victor Lotto. Thank you also to Christopher Page and David Rolfe for occasionally reading; as well to all those who read at special services, including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Lessons and Carols, and Christmas Eve.

The readings and readers schedules are usually prepared every two to three months, and individual readers are generally slated about once every eight weeks (9:00 a.m. service) or once per month (11:15 a.m. service). I am happy to make large print versions of the readings for anyone who would like one. If you are interested in becoming a reader, please speak with Alice or Christopher.

*Respectfully submitted, Alice Jourmel*

**a note from Christopher:** Almost every Sunday I feel blessed by the public reading of Scripture. This is one of the important ways we embody the reality of our shared ministry in the church. The readings at St. Philip are consistently offered with devotion, faith and conviction which is a gift at the heart of our worship.

## **Overhead Projection Team**

You will notice Dana Reiter, Kathy Fyfe, Alice Jourmel, and Susan K. Smith in the front pew using the laptop to provide the service on the overhead screen. Thank you all. We are looking for another person who could do the 5th Sundays, please let Susan or the office know if you are available.

This summer the overhead laptop stopped being able to be recharged. Thank you to Allan Carmichael for overseeing and undertaking the purchase and installation of a new laptop, Easy Worship software, and projector.

*Submitted by Susan K. Smith (scheduler)*

**a note from Christopher:** This is one of those details in our life that might go unnoticed, until it doesn't work. Our 9:00 worship depends upon those who faithfully show up and project our music and our liturgy. I deeply value the fact that we do not need to be tied to a book and that, thanks to this faithful ministry, we can lift up our heads and raise our voices together in worship.

## **Sound Team**

At the back of the church you'll find Mario Di Lucca, Allan Carmichael, Scott Alexander and Susan K. Smith monitoring the sound for anyone using a microphone during 9:00 am service services. Thank you all. We are looking for another person who could do the 5th Sundays, please let Susan or the office know if you are available.

*Submitted by Susan K. Smith (scheduler)*

**a note from Christopher:** This small group of faithful servants, coordinated by the steady faithful ministry of Susan K. Smith (who attends to so many of the practical details of our life together), not only help readers, worship leaders and musicians to be heard, they also make it possible for sermons to be shared much more widely than just with our own immediate community. This is another of those often unnoticed but vital ministries in our life together.

## **Usher/Greeter Team**

When you come in the front door for the 9:00 am service (and for family services at other times), you are greeted by Eric Reiter, Brenda & Rob Hosie, Larry Anthony & Joan Sedgwick, Bruce Richmond, Barbara Coates, Clayton Savage, Bruce Fyfe and Mary Ann Hayes & Brian

Hahn. The ushers also count the parishioners, gather the offering and guide people up for communion. Thank you all.

*Submitted by Susan K. Smith (scheduler)*

**a note from Christopher:** I am so happy on a Sunday morning when I see pew leaflets being handed out with a friendly welcome. Ushers / Greeters are often the first people someone will encounter when they choose to join us for worship. So, this ministry sets a tone for everyone's experience of worship.

## **Fellowship/Coffee Team**

When you go downstairs you are handed a hot cup of coffee or tea and conversation by Ceal & Ged McLean, Youth Group, Alicia Schlag, Margot Spence, Bruce Richmond, Brenda & Rob Hosie, Rowena & Anthony Hendriks, Evelyn & Clayton Savage, Nicole & Neil Ryan, Joan Sedgwick & Larry Anthony, Amanda Weinerman, Katherine & Bert Haupt, Lillian Konkin, Karen Fenimore, Karen Van Rheenens and Bonnie & Mike Pipes.

Thank you all. Being a coffee host is also a great way to get to know people and we have three Sundays open, so, if you would like to be part of this important ministry, please let Susan or the office know.

*Submitted by Susan K. Smith (scheduler)*

**a note from Christopher:** I love coffee. It is a great gift to me to be able to skip downstairs between the 9:00 and 11:15 services and be served a cup of coffee. This ministry supports connection in our community and provides a warm welcome to worshipers.

## **Prayer Ministry**

The formal intercessory prayer ministry at St. Philip consists of two parts.

There is a prayer team in place each Sunday morning at the 9:00 am Service during Communion. The team positions itself to the left of the Communion rail, and can be accessed by an individual following the taking of the bread and wine. The team is in place to join in praying for any request on your heart. Your confidentiality is respected.

We have an email prayer chain, consisting of just over a dozen people. Each month an up-to-date list is circulated by email to the members of the prayer chain. The list for prayer consists of Staff and leaders; upcoming events; individuals' names put forward by members of the congregation; members of St. Philip who no longer attend church because of physical compromise.

The email prayer chain is well used, and we are very grateful for the faithful members who pray for us all. To have your request included, please contact me. My information is in the Sunday bulletin on the back page.

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Bonnie Bailey (Pipes)*

**a note from Christopher:** There are so many needs that a community like St. Philip represents. It is such an encouragement to me to know that we have a faithful reliable group of people willing to hold prayerfully in their hearts the concerns that are brought to them for prayer.

## **Pastoral Care Team**

The priority of the pastoral care group at St. Philip is to hold a connection with those who are unable to attend services at St. Philip. This might come in the form of home visits, prayer, phone calls, sending cards, hospital visits, offering meals, addressing whatever needs are forthcoming. Relationships are deepened and invariably loving friendships develop.

Our group, Karen Fenimore, Evelyn Savage, Bonnie Bailey, Kathy Fyfe, Jennifer Sharlow, and while she was in Victoria, Tracey Morris, meets regularly to pray for and to update one another on the circumstances of those we are connected with.

The pastoral care group functions as a support to the leadership of the church.

*Sharon Richmond, facilitator*

**a note from Christopher:** There are so many concerns and needs in our community to which I am unable to attend. It is a profound gift to me to be able to entrust so many real pastoral matters to this caring and compassionate group of people who help us keep in touch with the real struggles that are represented by our life together.

## **St. Philip Anglican Church Treasurer's Report and Narrative Budget 2020**

### **INTRODUCTION**

One of the ways to summarize our collective life at St. Philip is by considering who we are and what we do. We see ourselves as children of God, created in His image, and therefore as siblings of Christ, who lies and reigns at the centre of our beings. It follows, then, that what we do is live our lives in community, encouraging one another to experience for ourselves that core reality, and to let it shine as a light to a world that too often knows darkness and separation from our true natures. We speak of budgets in terms of dollars and cents, line items and expenditures. But in the light of who we are and what we do, a budget is more rightly a reflection of the values we place on ministries of one form or another. Each person who comes



to St. Philip contributes in tangible and intangible ways to the collective ministry of St. Philip, help inch us inexorably closer to the time when the light of Christ will be clear to all.

As budget preparers, we want to acknowledge with gratitude that ministry at St. Philip would be lifeless without the contributions each person brings, in whatever form they bring them. So thank you, St. Philipians! Thank you also to Kathy Fyfe for her careful bookkeeping and to Betty Davidson for her careful tracking of our offerings throughout the year.

What follows is a presentation of St. Philip's financial activities and draft proposed 2020 budget in a narrative format which identifies the total costs associated with each area of ministry. Please reflect on this narrative format budget presentation. A more regular format presentation of our church finances will be presented at the Annual General Meeting on January 28.

## **BUDGET**

Executing the diverse ministries of St. Philip requires many resources, including financial. At St. Philip, like any other family, we attempt to balance the funds our members give to us with what we lay out for our ministries. In the past few years, the balance has been mostly good, with shortfalls offset in part by other sources of revenue. In this narrative budget we present each ministry and the associated cost of carrying them out. Built into each ministry is the salary paid to the staff member(s) associated with that ministry. As a fair approximation, Christopher's ministry has been apportioned into Worship (50%) Pastoral Care (30%) and Administration and Communication (20%). In the following descriptions, the budgeted amounts for 2020 are indicated, with the budgeted and actual monies for 2019 shown for comparison.

### **1. INCOME**

The bulk of the funds used at St. Philip arise out of the gratitude and generosity of the parishioners who, through their offerings, and in some cases bequests, share the vision of St. Philip as a church where the light of Christ can be made known. Other sources of revenue add to our income, including space rental, and investment interest. In 2019 our income from offerings was below our budget expectation, but this was more than compensated by income from these other sources. We try to maintain a balance between our income from offerings and our annual expenses, but precisely balancing these two budgets is not a requirement.

	<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>2019 Actual</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>
Income from Offerings	\$ 288,000	\$ 281,778	\$ 287,000
Other income and bequests	\$ 23,415	\$ 62,983	\$ 21,135
Total	\$ 311,415	\$ 344,761	\$ 308,135

## 2. EXPENSES

### 2.1. FAITH IN ACTION - SHARING OUR LIGHT THROUGH IN THE GREATER COMMUNITY

#### Community Outreach & Support for the Wider Church

St. Philip Church has a Missions Committee to advise Parish Council about outreach opportunities that are believed to have a positive impact on individuals and groups, and that are led by people with close current and historical ties to the St. Philip community.

In 2019, we supported many outreach agencies, including:

- Oak Bay High School (through Young Life)
- Precious Jewels
- The Contemplative Society
- Canadian Foundation for the Children of Haiti
- Island Pastoral Services
- Emmaus Community
- Jolly Nyeko
- Hulitan Family Services
- International Justice Institute (through support for David Hosie)

In addition and extra to our 2019 budget we supported the UVic students Camino Pilgrimage, David Hosie's mission to International Justice Ministries in the Philippines and outreach to Syrian Refugees. We had budgeted \$20,000 for these ministries in 2019 but in fact spent \$24,800. In 2020 we intend to increase our planned contribution to these agencies to \$21,000.

In addition to the monies distributed directly by St. Philip, our Diocese collects from us an annual assessment, 50% of which supports outreach and mission activities sponsored by the Anglican Church of Canada. In 2019, this amounted to \$24,363, thereby extending the reach of St. Philip beyond our own local budget. The ministries included:

- Refugee sponsorship
- Shared and remote ministry
- Sorrento Centre
- Vancouver School of Theology
- Sisters of St. John the Divine
- Council of the North
- Anglican Journal
- Other international partnerships

2020 Budget	2019 Actual	2019 Budget
\$47,692	\$49,206	\$58,692

## **2.2.FAITH IN FORMATION - SHARING OUR LIGHT WITHIN THE ST. PHILIP COMMUNITY**

In these ministries, we worship together and learn about the light of Christ within us.

### **Worship**

As followers of Christ, we believe we are called to gather to celebrate our identities as children of God, learn, pray, sing and participate in the Eucharist. To support these activities, we have clergy, altar guild members, praise leaders, musicians and a choir. Together, these ensure our hearts and voices are centred on, and lifted up to, God through Jesus Christ. We are thankful for these ministers of worship.

<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>2019 Actual</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>
\$64,865	\$61,989	\$65,724

### **Children's Ministry**

The vibe at St. Philip on Sunday mornings and at many other times reflects the fact that we emulate Christ by letting the children come and be...well...children. In addition to freedom to roam and explore, we engage Shannon Carmichael and her team of volunteer children's teachers to lead children in worship and other learning activities. Highlights of the year are the children lighting the Advent and Lenten candles, as well as the Christmas Pageant.

<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>2019 Actual</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>
\$24,239	\$23,500	\$22,522

### **Youth Ministry**

We are excited to welcome Grace Bodie who will serve as our youth leader and will be working with our youth to help meet their needs for worship, community and social connection. We look forward to supporting her and seeing the new directions she takes with the St. Philip Youth. We remain grateful for the years of youth work Caleb Hosie has given to our community.

<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>2019 Actual</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>
\$20,959	\$18,931	\$15,976

### **Pastoral Care**

As followers of Jesus we are acutely aware that ministry does not take place only on Sunday mornings. Rather, it is a daily discipline that reaches out to those in need and their families. Christopher leads this vital ministry, and he is supported by many volunteers who together ensure that needs are identified and addressed in a timely and Christ-like manner. Of special importance is meeting the needs of those for whom Sunday attendance at St. Philip is difficult.

<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>2019 Actual</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>
\$30,770	\$30,060	\$30,424

## Senior and Family Ministry

In the St. Philip community we recognize the importance of ensuring that our senior members and our families receive care and social interactions, through which we communicate our love for them. We are indebted to the many volunteers who lead events that draw people together.

<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>2019 Actual</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>
\$1,836	\$717	\$1,328

## Special Ministries

Several times per year we gather as a broader St. Philip community for special celebrations. The Seder dinner, for which we rent a kitchen-equipped facility capable of seating over 100 celebrants is very popular, as is the Annual Parish Picnic, which serves as an end-of-year congregational party. Also included in these ministries is our monthly Jazz Vespers, which is led by our own Bob Watts and his musicians and vocalists.

<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>2019 Actual</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>
\$3,500	\$5,230	\$3,800

## 2.3.FAITH IN FOUNDATION – HOW WE SUPPORT SHARING OUR LIGHT

### Administration and Communication

This is the ongoing work of our parish; the ways in which we support the many ministries of our community through the day-to-day operations of our parish and the ongoing communications between ourselves and the rest of our community. A portion of Christopher's time involves the administrative tasks of the parish. Thankfully, a strong team of volunteers, wardens and our office administrator are available to share in this workload. Our website, internet, phone, paper to produce the Sunday bulletin, photocopier and other office supplies are funded in this section.

<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>2019 Actual</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>
\$86,444	\$91,314	\$85,722

### Building and Maintenance

Though lacking the pizzazz of a foreign mission project, we are acutely aware that we cannot execute our diverse ministries without electricity for lights, natural gas for heating and a physical plant that is welcoming, comfortable and well-maintained by our Verger. Our building is generally in good shape, but it takes some of our financial resources to maintain it in that condition. Much of these resources come from our Sunday offerings, but others derive from facility rental, notable from the Gonzalez Preschool. We expect expenses in the physical plant in 2020 to be essentially status quo, but we are exploring updating the carpeting in some areas for safety reasons.

<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>2019 Actual</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>
\$32,598	\$30,117	\$35,850

### 3. BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS AND SUMMARY

The 2020 budget attempts to strike a balance between our needs for ministry and the income we can generate in a sustainable manner. To this end, our budget for 2020 is slightly lower than 2019.

#### TOTAL 2019 BUDGET, INCLUDING A COMPARISON WITH 2019

	2020 Budget	2019 Actual	2019 Budget
<b>SHARING OUR LIGHT THROUGH IN THE GREATER COMMUNITY</b>			
Outreach	\$47,692	\$49,206	\$58,692
<b>SHARING OUR LIGHT WITHIN THE ST. PHILIP COMMUNITY</b>			
Worship	\$64,865	\$61,989	\$65,724
Children's Ministry (including Sunday School)	\$24,239	\$23,500	\$22,522
Youth Ministry	\$20,959	\$18,931	\$15,976
Special Ministries	\$3,500	\$5,230	\$3,800
Family & Seniors Ministry	\$1,836	\$717	\$1,328
Pastoral Care	\$30,770	\$30,060	\$30,424
<b>HOW WE SUPPORT SHARING OUR LIGHT</b>			
Administration and Communications	\$86,444	\$91,314	\$85,722
Building and Maintenance	\$32,598	\$30,117	\$35,850
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$312,902</b>	<b>\$311,064</b>	<b>\$320,038</b>

*Submitted by Ged McLean and Larry Anthony*

### Envelope Secretary

One of the blessings of being the Envelope Secretary is getting to see the generosity and faithfulness of the parishioners of St. Philip as they support the church in its work week by week. Every week the envelope secretary with the support of volunteers counts the donations that have come into the church that week. Donations can be made with envelopes, by direct deposit through the bank, or loose in the offering plate. This year we have 74 families giving through envelopes and 43 families who give through direct deposit. Each donation that comes in with a name attached or in an envelope with a number will receive a tax receipt at the beginning of the next year. Thank you to the "counters" who make this possible with their dependable help throughout the year.

*Respectfully submitted, Betty Davidson*

**a note from Christopher:** Numbers are not my gift and finances are not my strength. It is a great relief to me that we are blessed with Ged McLean, Kathy Fyfe and Betty Davidson who pay meticulous attention to our finances at St. Philip and help us maintain a strong financial base for the ministry we share.

## Website

St. Philip's new website using the design mandated by the diocese went online in late 2018 and was populated with content in early 2019. As the new webmaster, I spent the early months learning the idiosyncrasies of the system, of which there are many, but now that these are known the job of maintaining and updating the website isn't difficult. Most website activity is dedicated to posting events and adding photos, sermons and weekly quotes. I am very grateful to Alice who edits and posts the sermons each week. She was unable to post 9 sermons in 2019 because they either weren't recorded or sound quality was too poor. Statistics may not mean much for such a small website, but here are some: We had 4,557 unique visitors in 2019, 40.9% from Victoria and the CRD area but a surprising number from as far away as Cheshire, UK (78) and Sidney, AU (63). Most of these visitors checked the website out only once, with just 583 people returning one or more times. Typically, there are 10-20 visits to the website a day, peaking prior to important seasonal events like Easter and Christmas and being lowest during the summer months. Most visitors who get past the home page check out events, the 'about' section, staff, ministries, and sermons, in that order.

*Ceal McLean*

**a note from Christopher:** Our website is our primary interface with the community beyond the church. It is often the first place people go, particularly from outside the church, to look for information about community. Ceal McLean has been incredibly patient getting this ministry up and running on our behalf. She has been responsive to requests for changes and endlessly accommodating and creative.

## Stairwell Gallery

In 2019 the Stairwell Gallery has featured artists from the St. Philip congregation.

The purpose of this gallery is relational, to learn more about one another and to celebrate God's gift of creativity with an undergirding hope to "encourage one another to love and good works".

It was suggested mid year that the showings be extended to two months to allow more time to view the works.

February artist: Victor Lotto

March artist: Kari Large

April artist: Mike Pipes

May artist: Shannon Carmichael

June art was that of Brian Norman, with thanks to Karen Norman

July and August invited art from our youth

September/October artist: Christi Norman Taal

November/December artist: Renée Reese

It has been a delight to have our stairwell filled with beauty and vibrancy and our thanks go out to the artists of 2019 and to those who are scheduled to exhibit in 2020.

*Sharon Richmond*

**a note from Christopher:** There can be few people who benefit as much as I from the beautiful ministry of our Stairwell Gallery as I go up and down those stairs multiple times a day. I am stunned by the enormous creativity embodied in this community and so grateful for peoples' willingness to share their gifts.

## **Jazz Vespers**

Since its humble beginnings in December 2009, St. Philip Jazz Vespers continues to grow and prosper as a musical outreach to the community. It is now the longest standing continuous jazz vespers in Victoria. In 2019 it presented nine concerts with an average attendance of fifty plus people, with special concerts exceeding 175 people. Interesting to note, 85% of the attendees are from outside the church. Forty plus local professional musicians were also introduced to our church community.

During the year, Jazz Vespers 2019 presented some very special events. In September, it performed the Claude Bolling Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano Trio. This was an adventure musically because it was a classical concerto in seven parts. It appealed to and was attended by a new audience that we don't usually attract.

In September, Jazz Vespers also participated in St. Philip 11:15 am Music Director, Jill-Ann Siemens' Hymn Sing production at the Royal Theatre to an audience of 800 people.

October 6th, Valdy performed Live in Concert at Jazz Vespers. This was a joint fundraising venture with Shelbourne Community Kitchen, which raised in excess of \$20,000! The 180 people who attended certainly enjoyed the concert and enthusiastically supported the Shelbourne mission. Thanks go to Karen Van Rheenen who introduced Shelbourne Community Kitchen to Jazz Vespers. Her support was integral to the amazing success of the event.

Musically, Jazz Vespers introduced vocalist Charlotte Martin, a powerful gospel singer recently arrived from Winnipeg. The audience members are still recovering . . . Other top notch musicians included Edie Daponte, Joey Smith, Stephane Greaves, Darcy Philips, Tony Genge, Victoria Symphony members and our forever bass man, Ryan Tandy.

Jazz Vespers enthusiastically recognizes and is forever grateful to Christopher "Skipper" Page, our Spiritual Leader, for his continuing support . . . he's getting Jazzy!

Many thanks to Ken and Betty Davidson for the endless supply of home made delicious treats at every event.

We have recently completed concert #83 and are about to enter our 11th year!

*Respectfully submitted, Bob Watts*

**a note from Christopher:** Bob Watts has been tireless over many years now in mounting a monthly musical extravaganza evening on our behalf usually on the first Sunday of each month. Jazz Vespers is always an event. It is one of the main ways we reach out to the wider community of people who do not customarily find their way into St. Philip. Bob continues to bring enormous vision and tireless energy to this epic undertaking.

## **Prayer in the Style of Taizé at St. Philip**

The Taizé community is a monastic order with a strong devotion to peace and justice through prayer and meditation. It takes its name from the small village in France where it is located. The 100 strong community of Protestant, Roman Catholic, Anglican and Orthodox monks is drawn from 30 countries across the world. Each year tens of thousands of pilgrims (mostly young) flock to to share in the community's way of life.

Taizé chants, often using phrases from the bible, are meditatively repeated over and over again, and gradually penetrate the whole being. The singing thus becomes a way of listening to God. During prayer time there is also reading of scripture in different languages, intercessory prayer and, importantly, a period of silence.

I first went to Taizé in France in 2010. The week I spent there changed my life. When I came back I searched for a church community that I could belong to. I went shopping! Early the following year Brother Emile, a Canadian brother from Taizé, came to Victoria. I told him that I was looking here for what I found at Taizé. He looked at me gravely and said "It is not what you get out of things, it is what you bring to them....."

Not long after that I found my home at St. Philip, where Harry Eerkes was Assistant priest, and where Harry led services of Prayer in the Style of Taizé with his beautiful voice. Harry died in 2012. Rob Crosby Shearer brought his wonderful musical gifts to lead the Taizé worship at St. Philip until he left in 2016. In 2013 I brought back from Taizé the picture that is the icon that is on face of the cross in the church there. Michael Ambrey crafted for it a beautiful wooden cross which hangs to the right of the altar at St Philip. During the Good Friday service, in what has become an annual ritual, the new cross was movingly carried down the aisle by the children of St. Philip.

In 2019, as they have on several previous occasions, we were fortunate to have the beautiful music and liturgy of Taizé at services on Palm Sunday and New Year's Eve, led by Diego Barrientos and Kathryn Lacerte. They met at a Taizé international meeting in Santiago and their love of Taizé is evident. The services were well attended, both by members of our congregation and by worshipers from the wider community. There was a beautiful anointing by Christopher for those who wished. This year we had readings of the Gospel in English, Spanish, French, German and Hindi. It is as close for me as it gets to being at the Taizé community again.



I am very grateful for so much that is found at St. Philip. Spiritual nourishment, inspiration, the sharing of the Eucharist, friendship, support.....and the opportunity to share with others the music of Taizé that I love so dearly.

Thank you.

*Liz Vickers*

**a note from Christopher:** Liz Vickers is our St. Philip Taizé angel. She carries the vision and has orchestrated Taizé worship in our midst with grace and gentleness. Taizé worship is a gift we share with the wider community and a great blessing to those who feel called to enter into this quiet, devotional style of worship.

## Pageant

Amazing as always. 52 people came together for our annual telling of the wonderful news. 30 youth and younger children – 11 older ones were the puppet voices and hands, dialogue and singers.

24 adults came on board as musicians, singers, scripture readers, stage constructors and deconstructors, technical support and assistants to younger casts during performance and during rehearsals.

The original plot line came from Christopher's 2005 story, "An Uncertain Journey," from Joseph's point of view. It was made into a play script adding a Mary and a Gabriel by Dave Conway, our wonderful music man. And of course those roles were ably played by puppets, and our delightful young folk. Unfortunately, we ran into difficulties finding someone to video the pageant this year, which would have been a lovely way to share with some who couldn't be there, but all in all a great day.

Also amazing that we continue to take the busiest families, with the busiest children, at the busiest time of the year and create such a wonderful opportunity for so many to be the story tellers.

*Jenni Jennings*

**a note from Christopher:** I rejoiced at our pageant this year. It was a joyful celebration. I am so grateful for the beauty of every participant. This really was Jenni Jennings' brainchild this year and she gave tirelessly of her time, creativity and energy to bring to birth this lovely event.

## Parish Picnic

The 2019 Parish Picnic was held on June 23th, on St Philip's property. We served 120 hot dogs, and 30 veggie patties of two varieties. There was also a mix of other picnic-friendly foods, many of which were personal favourites that individuals contributed to the meal. The Youth Group served out the ice cream sandwiches, and deserts included a large birthday cake.

The church's electric piano was set up on the lawn, and music was provided by anyone who felt inspired to share their talent. This included young members of our community who added to the fun during games by using the piano's recorded sound effects.

This was the third year that we had encouraged people to bring their own plates. This has not achieved the desired reduction in the waste stream, and so do not intend to continue with this next year. We did, however, eliminate the use of single-use plastic cups.

Once again, we express our thanks to the many people who contribute in a multitude of ways to the parish picnic.

*Clayton and Evelyn Savage*

**a note from Christopher:** One of the problems with doing something so well and so faithfully is that no one ever wants you to stop. Clayton and Evelyn have spear-headed our parish picnic for many years with incredible grace and flexibility. I am so grateful for this generous ministry that allows us to gather in fellowship and enjoy one another's company in a relaxed environment.

## **Seder Supper**

**a note from Christopher:** On Maundy Thursday each year is one of the main ways outside of Sunday morning that we gather as a community, usually at Emmanuel Baptist church, as our hall is not big enough to accommodate this gathering. It is a big undertaking and we are so blessed in 2020 that Brenda Hosie and Joan Sedgwick have already agreed to take on coordination of this event.

## **Search Committee**

Search Committee: Daniel Cownden, Jennifer Sharlow, Karen Van Rheenen, Ruth McGhee, Scott Alexander, Sharon Richmond

2019 is the second year of our search for an Associate Priest. In keeping with other parishes that are searching, applications are few and the process to get the right fit can be lengthy.

The committee met with Bishop Logan in January 2019, and a posting went up on the Diocesan website as well on our website in January, both with a different focus. Because of few applications, the time for submission was extended till April 2019.

The committee met with Barry Foster, Executive Director and the Bishop's representative on our Search Committee on May 27, 2019. Even though we had four applications, only one was suitable and a Skype interview was arranged with the candidate and we invited the candidate for an interview in September. The candidate ultimately withdrew. It was agreed with the Bishop to take a break from the process.

In January 2020, the search committee will reconvene with Barry Foster. Because of many commitments, Jennifer Sharlow chose to withdraw from the committee and Mel Zimmerman

and Yvette Bird have joined the committee, as will the new Warden following the Annual Meeting. We remain optimistic that the right candidate will be found for St. Philip.

*Sharon Richmond/Karen Van Rheenen*

**a note from Christopher:** I am so grateful to our Associate Priest Search Committee for their openness and wisdom in guiding this process of seeking additional ordained support in ministry for this community. I have great confidence in their wisdom and am encouraged by their determination to follow faithfully where the Spirit is leading.

## **St. Philip Vision Group (aka “Transforming Futures”)**

The Diocesan Transforming Futures Financial Plan was adopted at the September 2018 Synod. The heart of this initiative calls us to consider “What are we called to be in our community for the middle years of the 21st century?”

Funds are to be raised to enable fulfillment of the plan that we adopt and, as well, to enable the Diocese to assist with parish wide programmes such as: refugee sponsorship, reconciliation ministries, UVic Anglican Chaplain Campus Ministry, Chapter of Deacons, The Emmaus Community, Cursillo, PWRDF, Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, Threshold Housing Society, etc. as well as assisting parishes less able to meet their financial obligations.

While the financial component of Transforming Futures has raised consternation in our parish, we do recognize that we are a parish in transition. This Diocesan mandate is an excellent opportunity to identify our hopes and dreams in light of the realities we face in the decade(s) to come. What will church look like? How can we serve and love our neighbour? How can we grow deeper in our love of God, of one another and of the world entrusted to our care?

An information meeting was held on 22 November 2019 towards the hope of establishing a committee by the January 28, Annual General Meeting date, as directed by the Diocese. It has become clear that St. Philip will approach this project in two distinct stages:

1) Visioning for our future and 2) the financial component.

St. Philip will begin the process of Visioning in 2020.

*Sharon Richmond, facilitator*

**a note from Christopher:** In these uncertain, rapidly changing times, thinking about the future is a challenging undertaking. We are blessed at St. Philip to have a number of people who are willing to work together to part the veil and try to discern where God is calling us as a faith community and what we may need in order to equip this community to move forward in continued fruitful ministry.

## Missions Committee

Jesus gave the great commission to the church in John chapter 13: "I have set you an example, that you should do as I have done to you." Jesus embodied his love in action by washing his disciple's feet. We fulfill Jesus' mission every time we practice gentleness, kindness, patience, forgiveness and compassion wherever we are.

As a Church, St. Philip has strong ties with several missions. The committee aimed to disperse the \$20,000.00 that was approved at the AGM by the Parish equally to local and distant missions. We supported Precious Jewels in the Philippines (\$4,000.) Canadian Foundation for the Children of Haiti (\$4,000.) Jolly Nyeko in Uganda (\$1,000.); Locally, Contemplative Society (\$1600.) Threshold Ministries: Street Hope (\$3000.) T. Birds soccer for First Nations youth (\$1200.) Emmaus Community (\$1300.) South Island Centre for Counseling (\$1900.) and University Chaplaincy (\$1,000.). Input was sought from the youth of our Parish for the Missions that they wished to support, and they sponsored a child for \$38.00 per month in the Philippine's for one year, allocated \$250.00 to Opportunity International, a Canadian Charity for microlending, and \$150.00 to support a day when the youth worked at cleaning an invasive species.

There were several non-monetary initiatives to support needs in our community. For example, food products were sold from Shelbourne Community Kitchen, socks were collected for Our Place by the youth group, congregants contributed cookies and soup to the Pet Café Ministry at the University, the altar was filled with food that went to the Shelbourne Community Kitchen on Thanksgiving etc. We witness the open hearts and generosity of congregants through these offerings.

Thanks to the members of the mission committee: Kathy Chan, Jackie Prowse, Liz Holloway and Evelyn Dowman.

*Karen Van Rheenen*

**a note from Christopher:** This faithful group of people helps make sure that we are being wise in the expenditure of the financial resources entrusted to us by this community to bless the wider community. I rejoice that we continue to look beyond our immediate community and provide for the needs of the world around us both locally and internationally.

### Hope Home

Hope Home, which is known to many at St. Philip, is home to 24 young people with disabilities and it is a ministry of the Foundation for the Children of Haiti, a grass roots Haitian organization. It is within a compound known as Village Espoir (Village of Hope) or most often referred to as the Village. Across the courtyard from Hope Home is a school for children K – 6 and includes a special education classroom. Some of the youth from Hope Home attend the school and children with disabilities from around the surrounding area who may not have other educational options are welcomed.

This past year has been very difficult year of unrest for Haiti, fraught with political protests which have a number of times brought Haiti to a standstill, compromising safety on the streets and resulting in school and business closures. Fuel shortages, high inflation costs and food shortages have made life even more difficult and untenable for some.

St. Philip has faithfully come along side of life at Hope Home for many years with prayer, funds which support getting supplies to Haiti, hosting many packing days to pack everything into garbage cans and always responding to requests for needed items and more.

Although Hope Home's resources have been more limited than usual, everyone there has remained safe. For staff living off site getting to and from work is challenging, but day to day care and support has continued. It has not always been possible this year for me and others to travel to Haiti due to the strife, but when our very small team arrived in June, after waiting a few months of waiting for a safe window, our group of 3 and all the supplies were gratefully received.

This report comes with much gratitude to the St. Philip community for your unfailing support. Please keep Haiti in your thoughts and prayers with the hope that peace will come soon.

*Blessings,  
Judith*

**a note from Christopher:** Judith Armstrong's ministry in Haiti through Hope Home is a wonderful gift in a part of the world that is often forgotten and always struggling. We are privileged to share, through Judith, in being able to offer comfort and practical support to people who often go unnoticed by the rest of the world. To learn more about this ministry go to: <https://globalnews.ca/video/6399969/haiti-earthquake-10-years-later-orphanage-with-deep-canadian-ties-gives-hope-to-kids>

### **St. Philip Refugee Committee**

The committee was delighted to welcome Bader Molki from Syria, via Lebanon, to Victoria on November 14th, 2019. What a joy it was to see this young 24-year-old reunited with his sister, Bouchra and nephews and niece that he has not seen for 2.5 years. We had fretted often throughout the period of sponsorship. For the past six months while he was in Lebanon, Syrians were being rounded up and taken to the border from their work. He had his scooter taken from him by the authorities. There was the fear that he would not get to the airport because of the demonstrations taking place in November. The challenges were immense.

The committee worked to make this move a success. Bader had twice weekly instruction in English as a second language and a once a week conversation for several months. He demonstrated that he was an excellent pupil and worked hard to improve his English. He will be going to Camosun in January for formal English training five days a week in the mornings. He is busy trying to find a part time job for the times when he is not at school. Bader has also linked up with a local karate club and joined Karate B.C. As a black belt in karate, he wants to enter competitions here in Canada.

We were grateful to the congregation for the strong and spontaneous generosity in donating more than \$3,800 to help get Bader to Canada. In 2020 we will be supporting Bader with a \$29,500 budget that will help integrate successfully into his new life in Canada.

There are many people to thank, both the committee members and the members of St. Philip Church that offered financial support when it was needed.

*Gweneth Doane and Carl Evers  
Co-Chairs, St. Philip Refugee Committee*

**a note from Christopher:** Through this tireless group of people who continue to work with incredible tenacity and commitment we have been able to share in making a profound difference in the lives of people about whom many of us have come to care deeply. The fact that two families have resettled in Victoria from Syria is a great gift and a deep expression of compassion and care from this community.

### **Street Hope**

We wanted to thank you so much for your generous donations towards Street Hope financial and physical! We are so thankful for your faithful generosity each year. These items go a long way in helping the people who visit the Street Hope motor home feel loved and cared for. It is wonderful to be able to say "yes" when someone asks us for a warm jacket, or to make yet another Nutella sandwich (because we have enough jars of Nutella) when someone asks for one. Thank you! Thank you for your partnership in this ministry.

*Sincerely, The Street Hope Team*

**a note from Christopher:** This local ministry to people who live on the margins of our society is a profound expression of the compassion of Christ for people who often fall through the cracks. It is deeply touching for us to be able to share in so many practical ways in offering encouragement and love to people with whom we would normally never interact in our community.

### **Emmaus Community and Abbey Church**

The **Emmaus Community** is a Victoria, BC-based neo-monastic Christian community – meaning that we draw on ancient monastic ways as ordinary Jesus-followers.

We have a Rule of Life and take vows of prayer, presence and simplicity; focusing on engagement and connection with God, each other and our neighbourhood and watershed (see more at [www.emmauscommunity.ca](http://www.emmauscommunity.ca)).

We are a shared ministry of the United Church of Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada; intentionally modelling a witness of radical discipleship, reconciliation, ecumenism and diversity.

In order to be accountable to our denominations we appoint “visitors” who visit the community regularly. The Right Rev. Logan McMenamie is our ACC Visitor, and Rev. Rhian Walker our UCC Visitor.

Much of what you will read in this report builds on the foundation we have built since our founding in 2014.

However, there are a few key developments of note in the last year:

- One of our members, Rev. Matt Humphrey founded **Wild Church Victoria** as an expression of Emmaus. Wild Church meets once a month for ‘watershed discipleship’ – including outdoor worship as well as other actions and conversations around climate change. Gatherings range from 15-30 folks most months.
- We continue to articulate the desire and vision to build affordable, passive **monastic cooperative housing**. Four of our members attended Inhabit (Parish Collective) in Seattle. There, “Pastah J” spoke about going ‘from temple to table’ daily and this challenge has resulted in a deepening of our commitment to move in this direction – recognizing that space will help to facilitate a deeper sense of intentional community.
- We have had excellent conversations with Dan Hines, who co-founded Rare Birds Cooperative, as well as housing analysts from the BC Government and founders of co-op housing in Victoria. We hope to move ahead with this vision in 2020. In the meantime, we have started to share more meals together, and continue to pray together each weekday (see below).
- In 2019 we completed **With Burning Hearts**; the first draft of our Novice Formation Workbook. We see this process as a call to a deeper commitment to radical discipleship. We currently have 3 Novices who are a part of our Fall 2019 intake.
- In 2019 we opened the Belmont Priory- which is a retreat and hospitality space which houses guests to the community, who are welcomed to join us in Morning prayer, which we do in the space each weekday.

The rest noted here is an update on last year’s report:

- Emmaus and friends meet for **morning prayer** each weekday (which sees 5-10 people a day) and one evening, a weekly book or Bible study, regular open meals (usually 2-3 a month which see up to 40 people each time), 2 yearly retreats and our Novice process. Lay people and clergy lead the prayer ‘offices’ each morning/evening. Our last book study was **Braiding Sweetgrass**.
- Morning prayer draws on various **liturgical resources** including the prayer office which draws on ancient, contemplative forms of prayer and calls us to go ‘from gospel to life and life to gospel’ as our Rule of Life States. This Fall, for Season of Creation, we compiled our own daily prayer book called **Let All Things Their Creator Bless** – and an Advent book called **Magnificat** which members use when they are unable to join the community at morning prayer.

- Our **Beverage Collective** continues to support our common life. Members make Lime Ginger elixirs as well as Trappist-inspired, Belgian-style beers. Our beer project now boasts three established varieties and we aim to brew 150 bottles (16 gallons) a month, rotating our production. We are still operating on a 'grassroots' model – and offer beverages by donation to support the community. Our plans to develop the brewery/beverage collective further are currently on hold as we develop our plans for monastic housing. Our hope is to up our brewing to 2x a month in the winter.
- Our **Abbey Church** (church plant) continues to meet Sunday afternoons (4 pm) at St Matthias Church and has grown slowly over the last year. 2019 saw 3 baptisms. We now average 35-40 a week and the depth of creative, inclusive worship continues to take root. We have approximately 70 people 'on the rolls' and there are usually 8-15 children present on Sunday afternoons. We have preachers and leaders from the United, Anglican and Lutheran traditions – and our core/vision team also has members from each of these denominations. Our music and liturgy draws from across the living streams of the Christian tradition; and moves from contemplative, to sacramental, to liturgical, to justice-seeking, to artistic/creative, to inclusive, to traditional, to evangelical – drawing on all of these to birth an innovative and generous, yet deeply rooted experience of Christian worship.

We continue to staff a very part time music director, children's ministry coordinator and community life minister – and have a new 'core vision team'. See [www.abbeychurch.ca](http://www.abbeychurch.ca) for more information.

We are grateful to the many individuals, parishes, and our denominations for the support we have received and look forward to continue working together to reimagine Church in this time!

*In Christ, made known in the breaking of bread*  
 (The Rev.) Rob Crosby-Shearer, EC  
 Formation Director

**a note from Christopher:** The Emmaus Community and Abbey Church -- two creative adventures in ministry – have deep connections to the St. Philip community. Their creative vision and unique ministry are a gift to the wider community and particularly to the Anglican Church.

### **The Contemplative Society**

The Contemplative Society (TCS) is a non-profit association that encourages a deepening of contemplative meditative prayer in the Christian tradition. The Society offers regular retreats, quiet days, teaching, and workshops on Vancouver Island and the surrounding area.

Looking back on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the many gifts that TCS has been given in the form of staff, volunteers, funding, and teaching. The board is particularly grateful for the faithful financial support that the parish of St. Philip has given over the years.



The board is enriched by these TCS members who worship at St. Philip and also serve on the TCS board: Liz Vickers, Barb Britton, and Kim Gye, as well as our past president and member, Heather Page. We are grateful to parish member Alison McCluskey for her wisdom and assistance as she worked along side our Administrator, Sharon Taylor, ensuring that our financial transactions are orderly and records, accurate, clear, and transparent.

Cynthia Bourgeault's 5 day Wisdom School Luminous Wisdom was held at Cowichan Lake Education Centre in April 2019. As always, Cynthia's teaching inspires, challenges, and gives us much to work with. Typical of Wisdom Schools, the balance of mindful work, teaching, and chant awoke our intellects, hearts, and bodies providing much food for on-going practice. Cynthia will return to Vancouver Island in April 2021. TCS member Carmie Verdone writes about her experience at Luminous Wisdom thus, in a blog, on the TCS website,

*.....I know that a significant part of how I was able to dive deep down inside during the retreat beside Cynthia, her presence, wisdom, humility, breathtaking speaking ability and humour, was because of the devoted group of seekers/participants from experienced to inexperienced that filled the room. It became apparent to me in the first full day of the retreat that we were a cohesive group with energy waves, love waves going out to each other, co-mingling, supporting each other, loving our neighbour as ourselves.*

The Rev. Matthew Wright returned to Vancouver Island in September 2019, to lead a 4-day retreat Holy Wisdom, Mother of God, Exploring the Divine Feminine, at the Cowichan Lake Forestry Research Centre. Matthew, an Episcopal priest from Woodstock, NY, who gracefully holds the post of teacher and retreat leader, brings a quality of authenticity and heart-felt wisdom that so resonates with the gentleness and beauty of the location. His Christian teachings and practice are complimented by his devotional love of the Mevlevi (Rumi) Sufi lineage. He will return in the August of 2020. Charlotte Fatcher shared her experience on the TCS website thus,

*During that crisp and sunny week spent at the Lake Cowichan Forest Research Station, with the lake lapping and greens transforming to reds all around us, I went through a reintroduction to and transformation in the relationships with both myself and the Divine Feminine.....I couldn't have anticipated any of what I would take out of 2019's retreat with The Contemplative Society, yet I feel like it was so crucial to my growth at this time of my life. I am so grateful for the opportunity to have attended that week. I felt surrounded by wisdom, curiosity, and inspiration.*

TCS continues to co sponsor with Uvic its regular mix of Quiet Days and Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshops usually held at the Interfaith Chapel at the University of Victoria and led by a team of various board members. We have been fortunate to have had a number of students attend both retreats and Quiet Days this past year. At the Chapel, before his retreat in September, Matthew Wright facilitated a "spiritual conversation" Exploring the Way of the Heart, with a strong presence from the University student community, as well as from the wider community.

We continue to make available, through our website, books of Cynthia Bourgeault, and CDs and MP3s of all our retreats.

Thank you again to the parish of St Philip for the financial support it has shown to TCS as well as the contribution of time and energy that parishioners have offered over the years.

If you would like to become a member of The Contemplative Society or would like to be added to the email mailing list please visit The Contemplative Society website at <http://www.contemplative.org/> or email Sharon Taylor at [admin@contemplative.org](mailto:admin@contemplative.org) or phone 250-381-9650.

*Liz Vickers*

*Board Member and Parish Rep for TCS*

**a note from Christopher:** It may not be a big surprise to know that the ministry of The Contemplative Society is close to my heart. I believe the world today needs desperately to have opportunities to experience a gentler quieter way of being. So, I am grateful to TCS for the support they provide to nurture the life of silence.

## **ST. PHILIP ANGLICAN CHURCH Parish Council 2020**

**WARDENS:** 2-year term -

Karen Van Rheenen: served 1 year, 1 year remaining

Sharon Richmond: served 2 years, term **complete**

**NOMINATED:** 2- Year term - Larry Anthony

**SYNOD DELEGATES:** 3-year term

Jennifer Sharlow: served 1 year, 2 years remaining

Dave Conway: served 2 years, 1 year remaining

Karen Van Rheenen: served 2 years, 1 year remaining

**TREASURER:** 5-year term

Ged McLean: served 2 years, 3 years remaining

**PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE:** 2-year term

Greg Anctil: served 1 year, 1 year remaining

Raymond Fieltsch: served 1 year, 1 year remaining

Gillian Fosdick: served 1 year, 1 year remaining

Esther Graham: served 1 year, 1 year remaining

Judith Slimmon: served 1 year, 1 year remaining

Ken Davidson: served 2 years, term **complete**

Nominated: 2-year term – Ken Davidson