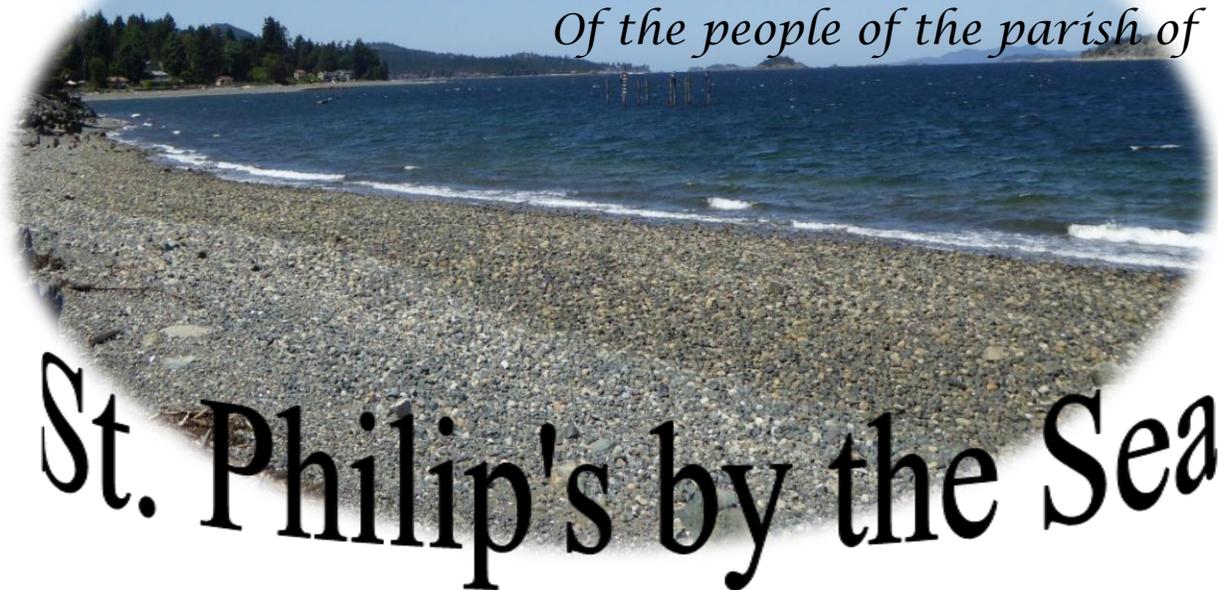


News and Views

Of the people of the parish of



St. Philip's by the Sea

Easter 2020

Volume 9 issue 1

Services for Easter 2020

The Sunday of the Passion with the liturgy of the Palms

April 5th

8 am Book of Common Prayer. 10 am – Contemporary Service - Palm Procession beginning outside

Maundy Thursday

April 9th

7 pm Meditation, Foot Washing and Communion

Good Friday

April 10th

10:00 am Way of the Cross

Holy Saturday

April 11th

8 pm The Great Vigil held at St. Paul's, Nanaimo

Easter Sunday

April 12th

*8:00 am Sunrise Service at the beach (at Oar Road)
10:00 am Easter Service with the Flower Cross*

The sounds of Spring



There are a number of ways of telling that Spring is coming. The days gradually get longer and longer; the temperatures start to go up; early flowers start to show, and blossoms appear on the trees. One of my favourite ways of knowing that Spring is coming is by listening to the different sounds. Back in England, if you walk into a woodland in springtime, the trees are full of songbirds singing their hearts out. If you haven't experienced it, it is almost impossible to know just how amazing the sound is. Robins, blackbirds, thrushes, warblers and many more – a whole cacophony of bird song.

Here on the Island, the sounds of Spring are a little different but equally bewitching. There aren't the same number of songbirds but instead we have sea-lions and frogs. I have come to know that Spring is on its way when, as I arrive at the church in the morning, I can hear the barking of the sea-lions down on the beach. Sometimes the noise is so loud that it seems as if they are in the plot of land

next to the church, rather than all the way down on the beach.

Then there are the frogs... In Spring, when I leave the church in the late afternoon or in the evening, I can hear the tree frogs singing busily by the pond. I am afraid that I usually can't resist the temptation to walk around the back of the church and see how close I can get to the pond before the frogs go silent. There is always one that keeps singing even after all the rest of them have shut up.

The various sounds of Spring always cheer me up. They seem to say "Winter is almost over." We are fortunate and blessed indeed to be living and worshipping in a place where the sounds and sights change around us so much through the year. As the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins was wrote: "The world is charged with the grandeur of God."

As we approach Holy Week and Easter, let us use our eyes and our ears to discern the grandeur of God around us; and then let us use our lips to voice our praise and gratitude to our loving Creator.

David



ROATAN ADVENTURES – JANUARY, 2020

My wife Lynn and I, plus 2 other friends, paid a visit for the first time to the island of Roatan off the coast of Honduras. We visited for 2 weeks from Jan. 19th – Feb. 2nd. Getting to Roatan is easy – a direct Westjet flight between Toronto and Roatan, with a flight time of about 4.5 hours. While travel reports indicate mainland Honduras is not particularly safe for tourists, the island of Roatan is now a major tourist destination, visited by different cruise ships on a daily basis. This can lead to a tourist influx of up to about 8000 people, depending on the number of cruise ships visiting.

The island of Roatan is about 40 miles long and 3 miles wide. It is best to rent a car for those days you want to explore the various parts of the island. A car rental costs about \$85 USD per day (including 3rd party liability insurance). Taxis are also relatively cheap to get from point A to B. The Honduran currency is lempira but US dollars are universally accepted everywhere. Credit cards are widely accepted. One must be aware of fraudulent ATM's. Our contacts at the places we stayed at were aware of which ATM's were safe.

The first week of our trip we stayed along the north shore of the island at the west end in a location called West Bay. We rented a VRBO condo with full amenities, including beach toys (kayaks and paddle boards) and internet access. Fortunately, we were removed from the main tourist hub in West Bay which made things a lot more tranquil. After getting off the plane, we were met by John John who was the property manager for our first condo. He drove us to the nearest supermarket not far from the airport, then took us to the condo. Easy peasy. The second week we stayed at another VRBO condo (Casa Cowee) further east along the north shore of the island – a place called Sandy Bay. This area is not as touristy and we had a beautiful condo overlooking the water. But despite its quiet appearance the local neighbourhood was quite noisy with dogs barking and music playing at various times during the night. My advice – bring industrial strength ear plugs. Casa Cowee is next door to a world-famous diving resort called Anthony's Key. There is also an enclosed dolphin pen with daily dolphin shows and swims with the dolphins. The dolphins are free to get out of the pen to swim in the adjacent ocean but they always come back – they know a free ride when they see it and they are well looked after.



The highlight of the trip for me was the snorkelling and fly fishing. There is also deep-sea fishing. Unfortunately, the fishing was slow, despite seeing a lot of bonefish in the shallow saltwater flats. I'd put a fly in front of their nose, but they weren't taking. The joys of fishing.... The saltwater reefs are in good shape with a lot of fish life, manta rays, Moray eels, and elusive octopi. There are some interesting sunken wrecks where a lot of divers go. If you are a scuba diver, this is scuba diving heaven. The highlight of the island for my wife Lynn was sightseeing some of the smaller towns (Punta Gorda) and the wildlife viewing at

Gumbalimba Park. I am told there is kite boarding and windsurfing at the east end of the island, but we didn't check this out.

There is a large ex-pat. Canadian and American community with both English and Spanish spoken on the island. Roatan (and the other adjacent Bay Islands) at one time was a British colony (hence the large amount of English spoken) but was ceded to mainland Honduras in 1861. Honduras now pays a lot more attention to Roatan since the island contributes about 60% of the GDP of Honduras. There is a real mixture of people, many of whom are descended from the original African slaves who were brought by the British to the islands. There is a lot of interesting history relating to the pirates hiding out on the Bay Islands who looted the Spanish galleons. Some of these pirates operated with the blessing of the British government.



Overall, I would highly recommend a visit to Roatan. A visit of about 2 weeks seemed about right. But you better like all the various water sports (snorkelling, diving, fishing). The island has a mixture of 1st World and 3rd World. Wear your bug dope and watch out for those nasty sand fleas. I had bites all over when I returned. The weather is warm with average highs of 27 – 29 Celsius. It can be humid at night so hopefully you have a fan or A/C.



The friendly toucans

Enjoy a few "wildlife interactions" which Lynn and I really enjoyed.

Happy travels and hope you make it to Roatan.

Blair Gohl

ST PHILIP BY THE SEA

PRESENTS THEIR ANNUAL PLANT SALE

*Saturday 2nd May
from 9.00am-2.00pm*

*Come early to be sure to get the best in plants or tools
for your garden*

More Info?

Contact

Jude Chillman jude.chillman@shaw.ca Or

Yvonne Downey yvonedowney@shaw.ca



Spring Garage Sale



Friday, March 27, 2020 and Saturday March 28th

9:00AM - 2:00PM

Spare an hour or two! Help unpack and sort the donations, no experience necessary.



Just show up anytime between 10 am to 2 pm on Wed or Thurs and give whatever time you can spare.

Your church needs you.

We are very sorry, but we are unable to accept:

Mattresses, Bed Pillows, TVs, Suitcases or Computers.

We do accept gently used clothing and bedding.

Open for Donations Wed 9:30 am - 7:00 pm

Thurs 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Wed morning 9:00 am various tasks, as in removing chairs, setting up table etc.

Wed & Thurs...9:30 help to sort sale items. We can use any help you are able to give. Bring a can of soup and stay a little longer!!

We will accept items for sale from 9:00 am Wed to 7:00 pm. and Thurs 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Garage Sale starts Fri 27th 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and Sat 28th 9:00 am to 2pm

We will need extra help around 1.45pm to pack up left over items and set up the church.

As you can see, we will have a very busy 4 days. This is a very big fundraiser for our church with money going to help our Outreach program.



GOOD NEWS FROM FERAS SAEDAM, HIS WIFE, RUBA, AND CHILDREN HALA; JAMAL; ALI & ELLEN

It was a rainy evening at the heart of Vancouver Island – as usual – when we arrived at Nanaimo airport after a long flight from Turkey to Canada. The moment we landed at Vancouver airport our status changed forever and our lives as well, that moment was a focal point in all meanings: our status has changed from unrecognized stateless Palestinian refugees, to permanent residents, then to proud Canadian citizens last year. Starting that moment and on we belong to two great places, Canada and Palestine, this ultimate blessing has changed our lives as a family and as individuals forever and for the better we hope.

We have been sponsored by the St. Philips by the Sea Anglican Church in Lantzville in 2010 while we were in a refugee camp in the desert of northern east of Syria. Our sponsors and we had to wait until the middle of 2014 to meet in person in Canada after a long time waiting, a horrific trip, and very challenging situations, the very generous efforts, contributions, and donations from the community of the church made this dream true and here we are with you our Canadian fellows.

We, two parents with four amazing children, started building our present and our future as soon as we arrived. There were many challenges, securing a job for myself to meet the house and family needs, despite all the difficulties I could work and study, I graduated from Ashton College (Vancouver) with a diploma in Immigration consultation. After a long exhausting process, I became a Canadian regulated immigration consultant and have my own business. My wife has her own challenges too, language barriers, being away from her family and taking care of a big family, but with determination and hard work she achieved level 6 in ESL classes and now is actively looking for a job and plans to continue her education.

Our children, as expected, were more resilient and adapted to the new life quickly. They go to their schools, make friends, live as any Canadian child, no discrimination because they are Palestinians, no fears of wars, and they are flying in the sky of freedom, equality, and dignity in their country Canada.

Our sponsors tried their best to support us for the first year financially, emotionally, they eased and made our settlement as much as possible by a lot of work and more of love and care. The friendship with some of our sponsors becomes bigger after the sponsorship has been officially done, they are our Canadian family. We shared their Christmas times, thanksgiving, birthdays, and very nice visits. Now our daily life in Canada is mostly like any Canadian family. We are struggling and working hard to meet our needs, raise the children



to be good Canadians, and help them gain a good education, at the same time we try to not waste any holiday or the weekend especially in the summer of Ontario, we spend almost every weekend in one of the parks or at the beach of a lake.

Owning a house is one of our dreams, in addition to sending our children to good universities, or seeing them, or at least one of them, serve Canada in the army or in any place of service.

We are in love with Canada and feel as if we were born here on this land, we will never forget that at the time when every country in this world was denying and rejecting us, and we were prevented from returning to our homeland Palestine, Canada and its people were our refuge, they have us as their people, and they welcomed us and gave us another chance and the respect that we deserve as humans.



Pancake Tuesday – Feasting Before Fasting

By Caleb Lawrence

February 25th saw another gathering of parishioners, friends and neighbours for an evening of food and fun – it was Pancake Tuesday, the night before we entered the Season of Lent.

Pancake Tuesday has a long history in the life of the Church. The traditional name for the day is “Shrove Tuesday”. The word “shrove” is the past tense of the verb “shrive”, which means “to hear a confession”. In Christian tradition the day precedes Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of Lent – a 40-day period of fasting and penitence (not including Sundays) before Easterⁱ. Shrove Tuesday was a day of confession of sins and receiving forgiveness (absolution). It was a time of celebration before entering a time of fasting and penitence. In French the name for the day is “Mardi Gras” commonly translated as “Fat Tuesday”. Another term for Shrove Tuesday is Carnival. Although the word is generally meant to signify a party time today, its original meaning comes from the two Latin words “carnis”, meaning meat, and “levare”, meaning to leave off. Thus, the word carnival really means “goodbye to meat”. In previous centuries fasting during Lent was very severe, and involved abstaining from all meat and animal products, including butter, eggs, cheese and fat. From this pancake Tuesday developed as a day when these foods forbidden during Lent, such as eggs, butter and milk were cooked up into pancakes, along with meat, served these days as sausages.

The exact date of Pancake Tuesday varies from year to year and is related to the date of Easter. That date is fixed by the season and the lunar cycle – Easter Sunday is calculated as the first Sunday following the first full moon after the first day of the Spring equinox. (We usually think of March 21st as the first day of Spring, but this year Spring begins on March 19th – the earliest date in more than a century!)

All of this was the setting and background for the Pancake Tuesday supper at St. Philip-by-the-Sea Church on February 25th. Traditionally the supper was a men’s event, and women

were teasingly told to stay out of the kitchen as the meal was prepared and served. Frank Hewlin was chief cook, assisted by Leo Lawrence, Tony Davis, Ron Downey, Malcolm Atkinson and others. As the doors opened at 5:00, a steady stream of parishioners, friends and neighbours filled the tables. We met friends both new and old and the space was full of laughter and animated conversation as children, adults and seniors enjoyed the good food, helped themselves to seconds and generously donated more than \$ 500 towards the ongoing ministry of the parish.

So, with warm hearts and filled stomachs we entered into the fasting and penitential season of Lent, as God's beloved and forgiven people. Through the weeks that follow, we are reminded more deeply of Jesus' mission and ministry to us and the world as we worship week by week, learn more of the work of reconciliation between first people of the land and those who arrived afterwards through video segments, and of our responsibilities as stewards of creation. May our journey together be one of hope and new possibilities as God's people in God's beloved world.



One very happy Family!



¹ Sunday is regarded as a special day of celebration, a "little Easter" as Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week. This celebration takes precedence over other commemorations in the Church calendar

Friends enjoying food!



Our Chef

A trip to Alert Bay



On Friday 21st February, I joined a number of people from across the diocese in a journey up to Alert Bay, in order to attend the induction service for the new minister there, Will Hubbard. There were a total of 15 of us making the journey, travelling in two small vans. Some people set off from Victoria at 10am, picking up the rest of us on the way. I joined the group at the Information Centre on Nanaimo Parkway at just after 12. We drove on until we reached the outskirts of Campbell River, where we stopped for a bit to eat and a chance to stretch our legs. The drive from Campbell River to Port McNeill is

not terribly interesting; two hours where almost all you can see is trees on either side of the road. I did manage to briefly spot an elk but that was the limit of our excitement. We arrive at Port McNeill in time to catch the 5:10pm ferry to Alert Bay, on Cormorant Island. The ferry trip is some 45 minutes.

Once we had arrived in Alert Bay we had just enough time to check in at the cabins where we staying before going to a restaurant for a meal together. Then it was back to the cabins and swiftly to bed.



The next morning (Saturday 22 Feb) we checked out of the cabins, had breakfast at a cafe in Alert bay and then walked along to Christ Church, where the service was taking place. Alert Bay is such a long way from Victoria or indeed from most of the rest of the Diocese that it was important that Will Hubbard and the congregation of Christ Church, Alert Bay knew that they are not alone and that they are very much part of the wider diocese. It was a joy to be part of a group of people supporting Will and the congregation in their new ministry together.



After the service was over, we didn't have time to stay for refreshments. We had just enough time to get out of our clergy robes and get back to the ferry terminal to catch the ferry to Port McNeill for the long drive back home. I got back to Nanaimo at 5:30 on the Saturday evening but the group from Victoria would probably not get home until gone 8pm.

It was a long and tiring two days but well worth the trip. If you haven't been to Alert Bay, then I can definitely recommend it as a place to spend a couple of days. The Cultural Centre is well worth a visit.

Y'all need to stop with this "bread is not good for you " foolishness. Jesus did not say I am the broccoli of life. Nor did He say give us this day our daily kale. Stop. Jesus is life. Jesus is the bread of life. Bread is life.



Need a handy man? Call Ron!

Skilled woodworker, painter, and yard work Call 250-619-2259 Or email at rsdowney51@gmail.com



A fallen tree

Towards the end of January, during one of the very windy days that we had then, one of the trees at the back of the church property was blown over. It must have come down with a mighty crash! As you will see from the photos, it is going to take some clearing up, once the weather is good enough. Fortunately, we have someone local, Mike Pierce, who has offered to cut the tree up for us. We will be making the wood available for purchase by anyone who would like it. Once the tree has been cleared and the hole in the ground dealt with, we can start to think about planting something new in that location.





Refugees Beyond the numbers from PWRDF

Submitted by Maureen Lawrence

PWRDF parish representative

As we all know Tony Davis is the Refugee Sponsorship Program coordinator for the north island for the Diocese of British Columbia. Suzanne Rumsey, public engagement program coordinator for PWRDF wrote the following which may be found on PWRDF web site. It demonstrates just how important the work that Tony and his team are doing in BC along with other Anglican Dioceses which hold Private Sponsorship Agreements with the Government of Canada.

70.8 million. It's a staggering number and one that keeps growing. Last year it was 68.5 million; a decade ago it was 43.3 million. Never in human history have so many people in the world been displaced from their homes by conflict, climate change, political and other forms of persecution and violence.

It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the magnitude of the crisis, to want to turn away from the images of the migrant caravans at the Mexico/U.S. border or the vast refugee camps of the Middle East and Africa, or the boatloads of people adrift in the Mediterranean. But each of those 70.8 million people has a name and a story, a longing for safety and for home.

At a meeting last month of the PWRDF Refugee Network in Victoria, B.C., the Refugee Coordinators from the 15 Anglican dioceses that hold Private Sponsorship Agreements with the Government of Canada, met to network, share information and strategize for meetings that followed with officials from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). They spoke of challenges in the face of increased monitoring and quality assurance requirements from the government, even as the wave that began in 2015 with the Syrian refugee crisis continues unabated. But they also spoke about being at the airport, together with members of sponsoring parishes to welcome refugee families to their new home in Canada.

Earlier this month, an emerging network, the Anglican Alliance Working Group on Migration, met by video conference to share information and learn from one another about migration and refugee situations and church-based responses to them in Vanuatu, South Pacific, in Ethiopia, Jordan, and Venezuela. One of those members, Episcopal Migration Ministries, has produced a video featuring Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, for World Refugee Day. In it, he speaks about the biblical imperative to ["welcome the stranger."](#)

Since its beginnings 60 years ago, PWRDF has been among those Anglican development and relief agencies seeking to accompany and support refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). That response has taken a variety of forms, from emergency shelter and food assistance to meet immediate needs, as PWRDF has done in Jordan and Lebanon with Syrian refugees and in Bangladesh with Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, to providing training and livelihood supports to those in situations of protracted, at times generational, displacement such as Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, and with Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in southern India. Here in Canada, PWRDF is a member of the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) a national network of refugee-serving agencies that advocates with and on behalf of refugees, in addition to bringing together annually, the Anglican Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs), also known as the PWRDF Refugee Network.

But perhaps most important, is the long-term development work that PWRDF carries out with partners throughout the world who strive to strengthen and uphold resilient communities and in so doing, mitigate against those factors that create displacement in the first place, be it food insecurity caused by climate change or lack of adequate health care services or livelihood options, or gender-based violence.



“When I said I’d like to see more evidence of the ‘Church Militant’ in our little flock I did not mean having three rounds with Mrs. Wilkins after morning service.”