

St. Philip Anglican Church

in the Diocese of British Columbia

ANNUAL REPORTS

for 2018

And the one who was seated on the throne said,
‘See, I am making all things new.’
Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy
and true.’
(Revelation 21:5)

VESTRY MEETING

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

7:00 PM

St. Philip Anglican Church, Oak Bay

AGENDA

1. WORSHIP
Prayers for the Parish and In Memoriam
2. OPENING BUSINESS:
Appointment of Secretary for the meeting
Sign-up sheet
3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES for Annual Meeting of January 30, 2018
4. APPOINTMENT of 3 SCRUTINEERS
5. ELECTIONS
Election of 1 Warden
Election of 1 Synod Delegate
Election of Parish Council Member(s)-at-Large
6. TREASURER'S REPORT & Financial Review 2018
7. Appointment of *Accounting Review Committee* for fiscal year 2019
8. ADOPTION OF BUDGET for 2019
9. 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 3 February 2019, and Introduction at beginning of 11:15 AM Service on Sunday 3 February 2019.

Parish Council Meetings usually held on Third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
First meeting of new Council in 2019 will on February 19, 2019.
14. Adjournment and Blessing – Christopher Page

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MINUTES OF ST. PHILIP ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018 7:00 PM

The Annual Vestry Meeting was chaired by the Rector of St. Philip, The Rev. Christopher Page. There were 43 people present, who signed the roll, declaring that:

"I am sixteen years old or older, baptized, 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.

Christopher read a passage from scripture, John 3:6-8, and offered a brief reflection on this exchange between Jesus and Nicodemus

The passage gives us a powerful image of who we are as human beings – both flesh and spirit, – our flesh contains the treasure of the spirit, – and this is also true of Christ's body, 'the church' – that we are both flesh and spirit. We want the flesh to embody and to bear witness to Spirit. And Jesus said, 'the wind blows where it chooses, . . . you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.' None of us has any idea what direction the wind – the Spirit – will take us – all one can do is be open to where the Spirit is leading us – move forward together, trusting in the wisdom and guidance of God's Spirit.

He offered prayers for the parish and read the 'In Memoriam' - giving thanks for the lives of those parishioners who died in 2017, and remembering also Chloe and Aubrey Berry and all who mourn their deaths, December 25, 2017.

2. OPENING BUSINESS

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.

- Mike Pipes responded, grateful to Christopher not simply for spiritual guidance but for his leadership to council & the congregation

- Joan Wiggins – "your teaching is an amazing gift"

- Charlie & Peggy Etchell – we're very new to St. Philip – attended St. Philip in Vancouver for more than 60 years – it's been a huge transition to leave that community, but we are so happy to have found this St. Philip – love the sermons – find people very welcoming and feel very much at home.

Gillian Fosdick appointed Secretary.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES for Annual Meeting of January 31, 2017

MOVED: Karen Van Rheenen

SECONDED: Ceal McLean

Open for DISCUSSION

Minutes of AGM 2017 Approved

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 Evelyn Savage, Rob Hosie, Stacy McGhee.

5. ST. PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL 2018 ELECTIONS

Christopher Page acknowledged that he is inordinately grateful to Parish Council – and Particularly to the Wardens. He depends so much on those who serve as Wardens, Karen Van Rheenen and Sharon Richmond

Election of 1 WARDEN

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

SYNOD DELEGATES - 4 positions – 3 Year Term (Elected)

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

Lillian Konkin: 1 year remaining

Karen Van Rheenen: nominated for 3 year term

Gillian Rhodes: nominated for 3 year term

Dave Conway: nominated for 3 year term

Treasurer - 1 position - 5 Year Term (Appointed)

Mike Pipes Retiring 2018

Christopher – offered special thanks to Mike Pipes for – not only his great skill – but his remarkable spirit of generosity and grace.

Ged McLean appointed for a 5 year Term.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER-AT LARGE: 5 POSITIONS - 2 Year Term (Elected)

Larry Anthony: 1 year remaining

Raymond Fieltsch: 1 year remaining

Katherine Haupt: 1 year remaining

Ceal McLean: 1 year remaining

Ken Davidson: nominated for 2 year term

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 2017

MOTION: to Receive the Financial Reports for 2017 as tabled. SECONDED

Comments from Treasurer Discussion VOTE: CARRIED

7. Appointment of Accounting Review Committee

8. Adoption of Budget for 2018

MOTION: to Approve 2018 Operating Budget SECONDED

Discussion VOTE: CARRIED

9. Moving Forward Together

Rector's Report: Addendum

A letter from Christopher sent by email to St. Philip parishioners, 18 January 2018

Dear Friends,

Many of my contemporaries in the church have recently announced retirement plans for 2018. I am not among them.

However, in August this year I will turn sixty-four, so the word "retirement" does occasionally come up in conversation.

On Wednesday 10 January, I visited the Bishop to discuss retirement. He assured me he does not feel it is time for me to retire and that he is absolutely supportive of me continuing as Rector of St. Philip parish.

I mentioned to the Bishop that there has been talk in the parish recently about the importance of "succession planning" in our leadership. With the Wardens' encouragement, I asked the Bishop, what he might think of St. Philip exploring the possibility of hiring another full-time priest who would gradually take on more responsibility for our life and ministry as I begin to make the transition towards retirement.

The Bishop was supportive of this idea.

On Tuesday 16 January I raised with Parish Council the possibility of seeking a second full-time priest at St. Philip.

Council recommended we continue to think and pray about this possibility and unanimously passed the following motion:

Moved by: Larry Anthony Seconded by: Raymond Fieltsch –

That PC encourages Christopher and the Wardens to explore the option of seeking a second full-time priest to share in ministry at St. Philip.

We will only move ahead with this exploration if it is clear there is strong support from the parish.

So, I am hopeful we might have a good turn-out at our:

Annual Congregational Meeting — Tuesday 30 January 7:00 p.m.

Our goal is to discern how we might best continue moving forward together in the vital ministry we share at St. Philip.

Please hold our community in prayer as we share in this important process of discernment.

God bless you all, Christopher

10. MOTION to accept OTHER REPORTS as circulated:

MOVED SECONDED VOTE: Carried

12. Further Questions or Comments

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Introduction of new Council at the end of the 9:00 AM service on Sunday, February 4 2018 and Introduction at beginning of 11:15 Service on Sunday, Feb 4, 2018

All Members of Parish Council need to have a Criminal Record Check.

Please see Shannon Carmichael for specific details.

Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month. The first meeting of new Parish Council is Tuesday 27, February.

14. MOTION TO ADJOURN

VOTE: Carried Unanimously

Blessing - Christopher Page

Rector's Report

2018 Review

If you comb through last year's pew leaflets as I have done, you will discover that, like most years at St. Philip, 2018 has been a busy, creative, energetic and faithful year of spiritual growth, ministry, compassion and care.

I was particularly struck reviewing 2018 by the number of **local ministries** beyond our parish that we actively support or with which we have a meaningful connection through our parish. They include:

- Street Hope
- Shelbourne Community Kitchen
- The Mustard Seed
- Our Place
- UVic Chaplaincy
- Orange Shirt Day
- The Contemplative Society
- Threshold Housing
- South Island Centre for Counselling and Training
- T-Birds Soccer
- Lifetime Networks
- Young Life

I am deeply grateful to the members of our **Missions Committee** who keep us in touch with these local ministries as well as the continuing work of the **St. Philip Refugee Committee**, and those international ministries of care and compassion with which we have a long-standing relationship. If you look at our 2019 budget, you will find that we identify around \$50,000.00 a year that goes beyond our parish to support worthwhile work of ministry outside our immediate church community. This is something to celebrate and in which we can rejoice.

In addition to all these ministries in which we play active roles, 2018 has seen an array of **special events** in our community:

- The grand adventure of our 2018 Photo Directory made possible by the incredible discipline and work of Gillian Fosdick
- The amazing shows curated by Jaqueline van Voorst for our Stairwell Gallery
- First-ever Parish Contemplative Retreat (8-10 June)
- The extraordinary gift of our Labyrinth blessed on 24 June in a grand celebration
- Summer Day Camp "Journey With Friends" 7-10 August
- The completion of our incredibly creative and useful moveable staging in September
- The amazing Labyrinth Workshop with Judith Slimmon 17 November

- Two thoughtful and challenging movie nights 5 and 7 December

Most of these were not undertaken as part of any grand scheme. They emerged spontaneously from the energy and commitment of members of the parish who came forward with their vision and enthusiasm. I cherish this “organic” way our community operates and love the unexpected gifts that emerge from within our community on a regular basis simply because someone feels led by the Spirit to make a contribution.

In addition to all these special events that popped up throughout 2018, there were, of course the continuing regular life events that shape the life of our community. Particularly touching this year were:

- Our 1 July Canada Day stories shared during morning worship
- Barbara Fosdick’s moving address in both services for Remembrance Day
- A really powerful #10 Jazz at Christmas on 9 December, part of the never-ending stream of amazing Jazz music Bob Watts has sponsored coming up to #75 in Feb.
- A charming Christmas Lunch on 11 December
- Our deeply touching Christmas Pageant 15 December
- The beautiful sharing during our single service at the end of December

All of these undertakings happen with a lot of support and encouragement from the dedicated **St. Philip Staff** to whom I am enormously grateful for their commitment, time, energy, vision, and hard work.

Pastoral Care

One of the great challenges in any church is to develop as a community that cares for one another in times of special need. St. Philip is blessed to be a community in which individuals reach out spontaneously and genuinely with love and compassion wherever a need arises. We are deeply blessed to have among us a slightly more formal **Pastoral Care Committee** made up of people who try to ensure that those who may be a bit more vulnerable and marginalized among us do not fall through the cracks. I am profoundly grateful to these caring individuals who commit to working together as part of the caring network that is our church.

In 2019 we will miss the gentle caring presence of Karen Fenimore on staff. In anticipation of possible budget challenges in the coming year, we felt unable to include Karen’s position as Community Life Worker in the 2019 budget. She also has changes in her growing extended family that made it good timing for her to have more flexibility in her ability to care for family members. I am heartened by Karen’s assurance that she will continue to share her gifts in ministry among us as part of the St. Philip community as her other commitments allow and as she feels led.

I am also deeply grateful in our life together for the ministry of prayer that sustains us as a community of faith and ministry. So many concerns are held in prayer by members of **The Prayer Chain**. It is a great support to know that in all the challenges that may face any member of our community, there are always people willing to hold these concerns before God in love

and tenderness, in the privacy of their personal devotional time, at the altar on Sundays, or leading intercessions in the body of our worship at all our services. Prayer is one of the particular contributions as a church we offer in the human community. We need to be a people who are seen to be a people of prayer and faith.

Worship

It is my fundamental conviction that the primary thing we do as church is to gather weekly for worship. From our life of shared devotion, everything else flows. We exist as a church primarily to call one another back again and again to awareness of, and submission to, the work of God's Spirit in our lives, in the church, and throughout the world.

I am so grateful to all those people who contribute in so many ways to make our worship life possible. It requires many gifts to create our offering of worship. Each person brings a unique and beautiful contribution in whatever capacity they share in our worship life.

I have been particularly touched this past year by the assistance in our worship of The Rev. Ruth Dantzer and Tracey Morris. Ruth is the Anglican chaplain at UVic; she was ordained a Deacon on 29 June 2018. Tracey is in Canada from Britain for one year with her husband Paul and their daughter Grace. Tracey and her family will return in June to Sheffield where Tracey will be ordained in the Church of England. We will miss them. They have been a lovely addition to our church community this year.

The "R" Word (see also Addendum below)

2018 is the year we first began to speak the "R" word out loud.

In 2018, I opened up the discussion about what might be best for St. Philip as we begin to ponder and pray about the time when I will retire. I was ordained into the Anglican Church of Canada on 20 May 1980 and, with the exception of a one-year sabbatical in 2008/2009, have served full-time in ministry in the Anglican Church without interruption for the past thirty-nine years.

My family and I returned to Victoria for me to take the position as Associate Rector at St. Philip in October 1987. I have been the Rector of St. Philip since 1 October 1993. Thirty-one years is a long time to do anything. It is almost unheard of, certainly in Canada, for a priest to remain in the same parish for such a long tenure.

My long ministry as part of the community of St. Philip has been a great gift and an enormous blessing to me and to my family. At some point in the thirty-one years we have shared in ministry, I began to realize that I no longer viewed my position in the church as a "job". I began to see myself simply as part of a group of people seeking to be together as a community of faith and love under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit.

I have a particular function within this community, but it is certainly not "my" church. This awareness has helped enormously to facilitate the longevity of my time among you.

But, I understand that all good things do come to an end, or at least shift and adapt to changing realities. One reality is that, in August this year, I will turn sixty-five. I am not sure how that happened. Retirement at sixty-five is not mandatory in the Anglican Church of Canada. But, clearly my retirement is not many years away. So we have begun a conversation at St. Philip about what may be the best way forward for this community of faith.

As you may know in 2018 we began a process to seek an Associate Rector to come and serve among us in full-time ministry at St. Philip.

On Tuesday 16 January, Parish Council passed a motion stating:

That PC encourages Christopher and the wardens in proceeding to explore the possibility of bringing a second full-time priest to share in ministry at St. Philip.

This was followed at our Annual Congregational meeting which passed a motion on 30 January, 2018 that:

The St. Philip Parish, meeting in our Annual General Meeting, supports exploring the possibility of seeking a second full-time priest to serve in all areas of ministry as Associate Priest with the Rector of St. Philip.

The vision was that, this priest and I would serve together in ministry for some time, then I would begin to function in a reduced capacity and this person would move into the position as Rector. So far, our search for the right person has not been successful. This does not mean the initial vision was wrong. Most of the people we have consulted with in this process seem to feel that what we are proposing is a wise way to proceed and that we should be patient and continue to wait and trust that the right person will be found.

It is important for me to emphasize that this process in which we are engaged is not primarily about me. It is about what is best for the long-term vitality in life and ministry of the community of St. Philip. The transition for a parish from a priest who has served in the same parish for thirty-one years is an unusual and potentially tricky business; it needs to be navigated with care and wisdom.

If, at any time, it becomes clear that the present strategy is not the best way forward and that it would be better for the parish if I were to follow the traditional route, give three months' notice and retire, I am completely willing to take this step. As much as I love this community and cherish my involvement here, I do not *have* to be here.

I am extremely grateful to, and have great confidence in, the **Selection Committee** we have in place. They are a wise, dedicated group of people who seek to listen deeply to the Spirit and follow where they feel led to find the best way forward for this parish.

We are blessed at St. Philip with wise committed leadership in our Wardens, Parish Council and many others who care deeply about our life together. No possible avenues are closed as we seek the best way to continue enabling the community St. Philip to thrive in ministry.

Year-End Finances

It appeared at the beginning of December 2018 that we were likely to end the year with a significant reduction in offerings compared to 2017. However, thanks to a last minute rally in giving through December, we ended 2018 with only a modest decline in income.

Finances are a tricky business in church life. Apart from some rental income and minimal investment income, we depend at St. Philip entirely upon the freewill offerings of those who identify St. Philip as their spiritual community.

Financial giving is a spiritual practice in which we express to God, our gratitude for the many blessings of which we are aware and our commitment to living deeply in dependence on God. We trust that God moves peoples' hearts to give. We then seek to live within the parameters of the financial resources made available to fund our life as a community.

We remain in a strong and healthy financial situation. However, any reduction in giving is a call for us to pay careful attention to our life together. We do not operate with a lot of wriggle room in our finances. So, we enter 2019 without fear but with renewed commitment to being fiscally responsible in these challenging economic times.

I am so grateful to the financial team that keep our finances in such good shape. Both Betty Davidson, our offerings recorder and coordinator and Ged McLean our Treasurer have done an amazing job getting up to speed in dealing with our finances in their first year on the job. And of course, our ever-reliable and skilled bookkeeper Kathy Fyfe continues to keep our financial house in good order. Thank you three saints of finance.

Attendance

I do not suppose there has ever been a time in our culture when it was "easy" to do church; but certainly our current context provides significant challenges for church.

The competition for Sunday morning hours is fierce. The spiritual marketplace is glutted with alternatives to explore in developing one's spirituality. The busyness and energy drain of daily life are often utterly overwhelming.

In spite of these pressures, most years, our average Sunday attendance has remained extraordinarily stable. 2018 however has experienced some decline in attendance at worship on Sunday mornings. The 8:00 a.m. service has had a modest increase from 14 in 2017 to 16 in 2018. The 9:00 service reports a drop from 124 in 2017 to 115 in 2018. And the 11:15 service has gone from 27 in 2017 to 23 in 2018. It is hard to know quite what to make of this.

I do not believe this decline is cause for panic. We continue to share in creative ministry together at St. Philip. The energy in the parish feels positive and encouraging. Ministry and outreach continue to be alive and vibrant. Connections are made; people discover community and nourishment in our midst. But, as with our finances, a decline in attendance is something we should pay attention to and listen for anything in our life together we need to hear.

In spite of the challenges of doing church, I remain committed to the value of a group of people gathering regularly to encourage one another in perceiving through this physical time-bound

material realm, a transcendent reality of love and light that is the meaning and purpose of all life.

Thank you for sharing in this journey with us. May we continue to open to the blessing and presence of Christ in our midst.

God bless you all,

Christopher (in ministry at St. Philip Anglican Church as Associate Rector Thanksgiving Sunday 11 October 1987 to 1 October 1993, Rector 1 October 1993 - present)

Addendum To Rector's Annual Report

Bulletin Insert 1 April 2018

ASSOCIATE PRIEST SELECTION PROCESS
UPDATE AND POSSIBLE TIMELINE - 2018

16 January – after discussion with wardens Christopher presents to Parish Council topic of succession planning for rector of St. Philip and consideration of hiring Associate Priest as possible way of moving forward together

18 January – letter informs parish that the following motion was approved by Parish Council - Moved by: Larry Anthony; Seconded by: Raymond Fieltch - **That PC encourages Christopher and the Wardens to explore the option of seeking a second full-time priest to share in ministry at St. Philip.**

30 January – AGM passes motion to proceed moving towards possibility of hiring full-time Associate Priest for St. Philip

Tuesday 27 February – PC discusses and approves list of people to approach re: Selection Committee

Sunday 3 March – all candidates for Selection Committee have been approached and agreed to serve

Sunday 11 March – Selection Committee introduced at all three services and hold first meeting between the 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. services

Monday 12 March – Position Description posted on Diocesan website, various Facebook pages, Regent College, VST, Wycliffe College, Anglican Church of Canada job site, Contemplative Society website

12 March – advised by Diocesan Office Bishop will attend second meeting of Selection Committee

Possible timeline moving forward (*nb: this was speculative and did not unfold as hoped*):

Sunday 8 April – sermon time at 8:00, 9:00 and 11:15 for questions and comments on process with responses from Rector and/or members of Selection Committee

16 April – meeting of Selection Committee with Bishop

30 April – deadline for written applications

early May – Selection Committee will receive written submissions from Bishop and determine which applicants they feel called to interview

June – interviews

June – Christopher meets with chosen candidate

June – name of chosen candidate submitted to Bishop for approval, candidate meets with Bishop who makes final appointment

early July – announcement, arrival of new priest September 2018

Please continue to hold this process and the Selection Committee in prayer

✠ St. Philip Parish – In Memoriam 2018 ✠

David Heron

Stephanie Williams

Susan Ferris

Anthony Betty Pipes

Brian Wall David Regnier

Douglas Aubrey Tozer Harry Doherty

Julia Robbins Len

Paul Yeker Phil

Robert Thomas Hosie Mr. Watson

Wendy Steen-Mitchell

Wardens' Report

One of the many blessings of being a warden at St. Philip is that you get a close up picture of all that is happening in our midst. We see many examples of acts of Christian charity, work towards social justice, activities to increase our spiritual growth, acts to connect to the broader community and action to invite people to join us.

Our Church is blessed with a wide diversity of people from many different faith backgrounds and many people with no faith background. All enrich our community. We are all on a journey together. We have volunteers that spend significant amounts of time working to keep the Church operating at full potential and many who join us in worship only occasionally. All are embraced for sharing at this time in their lives what they can and what helps them on their spiritual paths. All are welcome at the Table and all are equal in our midst.

We started this year on heading down a new path with the hopes of getting an associate priest to work with Christopher Page. Our optimism at the start of the journey was diminished with reality: fewer priests; an aging priest population; expensive housing in Victoria; and who knows what else kept us from getting many applications. Our hope is to have an associate priest that can work with Christopher for some time as he/she gets to know the congregation and understand all that keeps us a vibrant faith community. Keep the search in your prayers!

St. Philip is blessed with a Priest that has many talents and gifts and he has continued to use these for our benefit for thirty-one years. Every Sunday we receive relevant, inspiring teaching to deepen our spiritual growth and challenge us. St. Philip has a vibrant Sunday School program headed by Shannon Carmichael. As a congregation, we are fortunate to be blessed with so many children. The children's stories are as well received by the adults as the children! We are also fortunate to have a youth Minister, a rarity in many Churches. The experiences organized by Caleb Hosie have been rich for our teens. Alice Jourmel keeps our office running and brings the additional benefit of her musical gifts. Jill Ann Siemens' exceptional skills on the organ and piano add to quality of our 11:15 service. Jennifer Sharlow efficiently completes verger duties. Karen Fenimore has reached out and organized many events as community life facilitator and we will miss her as she leaves this position, though fortunately remains among us.

The Church is where we come together on Sundays, with the option of three services to meet our needs. However, so much else happens: Seder supper, Lessons and Carols, the Christmas Pageant, summer picnic, morning meditation, Tuesday evening contemplative prayer, Thursday Eucharist and study group, summer programs for children, Christmas lunches, pancake meals before Lent, movie nights, orange shirt day....it goes on and on. This year we saw the building of the labyrinth and a workshop on its significance. Art was displayed in the stairwell gallery through much of the year. A parish retreat was held in June. A stage was built by volunteers so we no longer have to rent one. A day camp was held in August. The diocese had us move our website to Ascend for consistency among the congregations. Even with all this activity, at our core, we are a community guided by the teachings of Jesus, ready to go where he leads us.

We are grateful to be part of our ever-changing paths together.

Sharon Richmond and Karen Van Rheenen

STATISTICS for 2018 *(with comparison figures for 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014)*

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
BAPTISMS	6	4	7	4	2
CONFIRMATIONS	0	0	0	0	0
MARRIAGES	0	1	3	2	2
FUNERALS	2	4	6	3	6
SUNDAY SERVICES Average weekly attendance:					
8:00 AM	16	14	13	14	14
9:00 AM	115	124	128	120	117
11:15 AM	23	27	29	32	29
Sunday afternoon once monthly services					
Jazz Vespers	59	49	46	59	41
Total average Sunday attendance	161	179	177	180	180
Total average 2017 Sunday attendance excluding Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve Taize:	172				
Midweek Service					
Thursday (Eucharist & Bible Study) 10 AM	7	5	6	4	4
Total average weekly attendance	173	189	196	198	196
Good Friday	105	109	98	142	143
Easter Sunday total	262	375	316	339	328
Christmas Pageant	145	98	193	198	235
Christmas Eve [also included in Sunday totals for 2017]					
5:00 PM Family Carol Service	215	261	283	253	270
8:00 PM Christmas Eucharist	55	48	76	62	58
Christmas Day [also included in Sunday totals for 2016]	45	52	58	58	48

Respectfully submitted by Alice Jourmel

Altar Guild

This year the St. Philip Altar guild continued faithfully to prepare the church for all services, decorated at major festivals, and ensured necessary supplies were available for our activities. However, as our long-time president stepped down at the beginning of the year and moved to an Associate member role, we did experience some changes. No one member was prepared to take on the full duties of President so the running of the Guild became a cooperative effort with various members taking on responsibilities as required. In order to make this process easier, written materials documenting the activities of the Guild have been developed and continue to be revised.

A new recruitment initiative was begun this year with coffee time information sessions and provision of an information sheet on Altar Guild duties. We are happy to be able to say that we have acquired four new members, though also saddened that two long time members stepped

down. To accommodate differing schedules and attempt to make our gatherings more inclusive we have begun holding our summer and winter meetings in the evening at the home of a member. This also allows for a time of fellowship and of course, food. The spring and summer meetings continue to be held 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.

*Respectfully submitted,
Felicity Bradley
Secretary, Altar Guild*

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 is 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 Litzenberger.

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 2019, please speak with Christopher.

Respectfully submitted, Alice Jourmel

Children's Ministries

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's 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 then go downstairs for Sunday School and to the Nursery.

Sunday School is divided up into 3 groups: Nursery 0-3, a younger Sunday School group, ages 3-8 and an older Sunday School group- otherwise known as The Junior Youth Group, ages 9-12.

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, challenges, songs, science experiments, and baking. Additionally, we pray together and share a snack together.

Sunday mornings are geared toward experiencing God, having fun and building relationships between peers and teachers. During Advent we hear the Christmas story and act out the story of Jesus' birth. In January we continue learning about the stories of Jesus' life. What was He like as a boy? Who were Jesus' friends? What were some of the amazing things Jesus did? What are the events that lead up to Palm Sunday and Easter? In the late spring the theme for the younger children was all about how Bugs remind us of God. For example, we explored changing hearts when we looked at the changing caterpillars which Ruth's Dantzer's family brought in to share. We talked about bees and thought about making life sweeter for others – a perfect lesson for Mother's day as we shared tea and a recipe for sweet scones.

The Junior Youth Group talked about running from peer pressure, temptation, revenge, and running toward trust, perseverance and God's light. In the Summer we went outside on the lawn to play wide games and learn about what God is like. He is good, wise, loving, perfect, peaceful, gracious, holy, patient, beautiful, spiritual, and merciful. When we experience those qualities in ourselves and in the world we know we are experiencing God.

In the fall we told stories from the Old Testament around a "campfire". We talked about how much God loved and cared for his people as shown in the stories of Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and Daniel in the lion's Den. During this series of lessons the children's art was collected and combined in a collaborative project which was displayed through the Christmas season.

During Advent we learned about Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. During the year we had a few memorable special days: The St Philip Winter Olympics with the Youth Group, Father's Day celebrated with watermelon served on the lawn, Orange Shirt Day about Reconciliation, Sunday School-A-Palooza and Welcome Sunday Carnival, wooden sword making, the Easter Egg hunt and the Church Picnic.

Thank you to the dedicated team of Children's Ministry volunteers who lead, teach, model and inspire our children. Their enthusiasm, wisdom and dedication to our children are outstanding. I am very grateful for each of them. Kathy Chan, Barbara Di Lucca, Lee Taal, Jennifer Sharlow-Tucker, Brenda Hosie, Alison McClusky, Kim Paulo, Pieter Koopmans, Scott Alexander, Andrea Wynne, Karen Fallon, Ian Bekker, Stace McGhee, Nicole Ryan, Stephanie Stone, Allan Carmichael Annette Fieltsch, and David Adams.

Thank you to the Children's Storytellers, who don't just teach the children but delight and educated the adults too. Ruth McGhee. Shari Alexander. Becky Tuffin. Christopher Page. Barbara Di Lucca, Shannon Carmichael, Karen Fallon, Daniel Cownden, Ruth Dantzer and Gabriel Conroy, and Rob Crosby-Shearer.

Sharon Richmond organizes the Nursery roster. Thank you to her and a thank you to the Nursery caregivers who not only look after the children but the parents who visit the Nursery: Joan Sedgwick, Norma Gray, Bronwyn McLean, Sharon Richmond, Karen Van Rhee, Lillian Konkin, Heather Page, Gillian Rhodes, Annette Fieltsch, Becky Tuffin, and Rosaline Christensen.

Thank you to Jennifer Sharlow and Karen Fenimore; who stepped in for me while I took vacation time in April. A thank you to Dave Conway for playing guitar for the children during Children's time and in preparation for the Christmas Pageant.

Thank you to Jenni Jennings who shared her musical talents with the Sunday School, practicing for the Christmas Pageant. Thank you to Ken Davidson for sharing his skills, and preparing and provisioning our annual woodworking project-project-jewelled swords.

The newly renovated shared office space downstairs is a great success. The space functions very well as an office and classroom space. It is well appointed with lots of storage and work space. Thank you to Sharon Richmond, Ken Davidson, Betty Davidson and Dayle Barns for making this happen.

I am very grateful for this opportunity to minister to our children. They are really nice people to spend time with. They inspire me, delight me and make me wonder. They ask amazing questions. I feel incredibly supported by the congregation, staff and wardens. It is a joy to serve you and our children.

Shannon Carmichael

Community Life Ministry

During the past year events were planned for the purpose of spending time together as a church community. They were an opportunity to get to know individuals and families who were new to St. Philip, enjoy longer conversations, and meet those who attend another of our three services. Often people will say that meeting in fellowship in this way has helped them feel more connected to others on a Sunday morning while at St. Philip. When we come together, God is with us...

Pot lucks give people the opportunity to contribute, and our community gave generously! The Church Family Pot Luck, Sunday Soup Lunches, "Remember When", the Coffee Fellowship Pot Luck and Impact Market...each one was overflowing with good food and fellowship! Another way our community gave generously was by providing meals to new mother Bronwyn, and family.

Several of our community provided support to Christopher by connecting with those who are no longer able to attend services, or have had a long illness. Through personal visits, phone calls or letters, they passed on the peace of Christ and his love, assuring them of our thoughts and prayers.

Most of the events planned this year developed as a result of conversations, walks, and coffees with individuals from our community...the summer's schedule of events was a fun mix of art shows, walks, music in the park, etc.

During the year, with any event people generously gave their time, pitching in to help with set up or clean up, giving whatever was needed...given with a joyful spirit!

I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to work and serve as part of the staff of St. Philip.
Karen Fenimore

Fellowship / Coffee Team (Following the 9:00 a.m Service)

When you go downstairs you are handed a hot cup of coffee or tea and conversation by Betty & Ken Davidson, Margo Spence, Bruce Richmond, Stephanie Stone, Brenda & Rob Hosie, Rowena & Anthony Hendricks, Evelyn & Clayton Savage, Nicole & Neil Ryan, Joan Sedgwick & Larry Anthony, Amanda & Asher Weinerman, Katherine & Bert Haupt, Lillian Konkin, Karen Fenimore, Karen Van Rheenen and Bonnie & Mike Pipes.

Thank you all. Being a coffee host is also a great way to get to know people and we have four Sundays in 2019 open, so, if you would like to be part of this important ministry, please let the office know.

Submitted by Susan Smith (scheduler)

Lesson Readers

The Lesson Readers at the 9:00 am and 11:15 am services help us to hear the Word of God deeply, and communally. Thank you to all the readers at the 9:00 am service: Alice Jourmel, Barbara Di Lucca, Bonnie Pipes, Bruce Richmond, Caleb Hosie, Clayton Savage, David Adams, David Bird, Dorothy O'Donnell, Heather Page, Jennifer Sharlow, Kathy Chan, Kathy Fyfe, Larry Anthony, Liz Vickers, Mike Pipes, Rachel Page, Renee Reese, Sharon Richmond, and Yvette Bird.

I am equally grateful for the readers at the 11:15 am services: Barbara Fosdick, Bruce Fyfe, Gillian Fosdick, Karen Fenimore, Marilyn Berry, Nancy Geddes, Pat Kilner, Russel Harp, Sherry Armstrong, Sue MacLeod, Terry Vatrt, 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 ten 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 feels that the smaller print of the lectionary bible may be a barrier to their participation in this ministry. If you are interested in becoming a reader, please speak with Alice or Christopher.

Respectfully submitted, Alice Jourmel

Missions

We are a Church that seeks to further missions as stated in John 13:15. "I have set you an example that you also should do as I have done to you". Jesus embodied his love in action by washing his disciples' feet. As followers of Jesus, our mission is to live in the world in such a way that, by our presence and our action, we wash people's "feet".

Our approved budget for 2018 was \$17,000 and our goal remained the geographical target guideline of 50% missions in greater Victoria and 50% missions outside our community.

The missions St. Philip supported through the \$17,000 were: Precious Jewels (\$4,000.); Canadian Foundation for the Children of Haiti (\$3,500.); Jolly Nyeko (\$1,000.); Contemplative Society (\$1600.); Threshold Ministries i.e. Street hope (\$2,500.); T-Birds (\$1200.); Emmaus Community (\$1300.); South Island Centre for Counselling and Training (\$1,900.).

Each mission has a contact person within the Church who is responsible for keeping information updated on the boards downstairs at the Church.

There were several non-monetary initiatives to support needs in our community. For example, food was collected for Shelbourne Community Kitchen, socks and blankets were collected for Our Place, congregants contributed cookies to the Pet Cafe Ministry at University of Victoria Chapel. The Street Hope motorhome was filled with foodstuffs to support their work. We witness the open hearts and generosity of congregants through these offerings.

Thanks to Kathy Chan, Jackie Prowse, Liz Holloway and Evelyn Dowman for being part of the missions committee.

Karen Van Rheenen

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.

A highlight of the 2018 fiscal year was the celebration on May 5th of the 20th birthday of the founding of The Contemplative Society. It was an opportunity to celebrate the many blessings we have experienced over the years. We paid tribute to the faithful and visionary work that Margaret Haines contributed to the founding and early development of the Society. In her honour we launched the Margaret Haines Scholarship Fund to enable those with limited income to attend TCS sponsored events. Cynthia Bourgeault, who is also a founding director, unfortunately couldn't join us but was present with us thanks to a video interview kindly guided by TCS member, Michael Flynn.

Also in May, TCS sponsored a 5-day peer led meditation intensive. The retreat offered an opportunity for extended group sittings and was held at the Cowichan Lake Forestry Research Centre. As was typical of silent retreats, there was a balance of sitting, chanting, and shared lectio.

The Rev. Matthew Wright returned to Vancouver Island to lead a 5-day Wisdom School also at the Cowichan Lake Forestry Research Centre, October 11-15, 2018. 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. We are hoping he will return in the fall of 2019.

TCS continues to sponsor 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.

A couple of significant changes occurred this past year. I completed my third and final term as President of TCS (6.5 years) at the AGM held in October. And in December Miranda Harvey, Administrator for the past 3.5 years resigned from her post to allow her to put more attention to her studies toward becoming a clinical counsellor. We are thankful for a smooth transition and that Sharon Taylor was able to assume this position a few weeks later.

St. Philip offered its first parish silent weekend retreat, "The Language of Silence", June 8-10, 2018. This provided an opportunity for people new to silence and meditation, as well as for those more familiar with these practices, to enjoy silent contemplation and rest in the midst of the beautiful waterfront property of Cowichan Lake Forest Research Centre. St Philip will be offering a similar opportunity this year to experience a silent retreat in the same location, Friday March 1st to Sunday March 3rd. There are a few spots left. Please contact Sharon at sharonrichmond@gmail.com if are interested in attending. Cost is \$175 due with registration February.

April 2nd (Tues) to 7th (Sun) TCS will be sponsoring a five day Wisdom School, *Luminous Wisdom*, with Cynthia Bourgeault at the Cowichan Lake Education Centre. This retreat is already full but if you are interesting in being added to the waitlist please contact TCS office. Further information can be found by following this link: <https://www.contemplative.org/events2/luminous-wisdom-wisdom-school-cynthia-bourgeault/>

As I reflect back over our last year, I am struck by the blessings and abundance we have shared as the community of St Philip. I give thanks for each of you and to God who unites, guides, and carries us on this wondrous and mysterious journey of Life. And on behalf to The Contemplative Society, my thanks and gratitude to the parish for the continuing financial support as well as the contribution of time and energy that parishioners have offered over the years.

I am most grateful for the faithful commitment to spiritual practice that I see as a bedrock on which this parish rests. One recent example of this is the creation of the labyrinth this past year. The labyrinth offers an opportunity to walk at a much slower pace than we are normally accustomed - to pause and take note of our outward surroundings and reflect on our inner life.

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 or phone 250-381-9650.

Heather Page, Parish Rep for TCS

Contemplative Midweek Worship at St. Philip

Tuesday Meditation @ 7pm : 2 – 20 minute sits with walking meditation

Monday thru Thursday Silent Prayer @ 8:30am: 20 minute sit

Emmaus Community

*The **Emmaus Community** is a neo-monastic Christian community who have a Rule of Life and take vows of prayer, presence and simplicity. You can see more at www.emmauscommunity.ca). We seek to draw on ancient, contemplative forms of prayer to go 'from gospel to life and life to gospel' as our Rule of Life states.*

Emmaus and friends meet for morning prayer each weekday (which sees 5-10 people a day) and usually one evening a week. We host 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. We do meals once a month at the Mustard Seed.

Of interest to St. Philip is the number of folks who are connected with St. Philip who are part of the studies and meals.

In 2018 we have expanded our Novice process to welcome participants from anywhere in Canada. We currently have 11 Novices and are working on a revised process of formation which, when completed, can be shared with the wider church. We see this process as a call to a deeper commitment to radical discipleship. Our Community has 21 members in Novice, Companion or Covenanted promises or vows.

In addition to this, we have several ministries that are part of the community that have evolved over 2017 and 2018:

Our **Beverage Collective** continues to support our common life. Members make Kombucha Teas, Lime Ginger elixirs as well as Trappist-inspired, Belgian-style beers. Our beer project now boasts three established varieties.

Our **AbbeyChurch** (church plant) moved in September 2017 from a small storefront theatre into St. Matthias Church. The Sunday-afternoon worship community has experienced steady growth since then. We now average 35-40 a week and the depth of creative, inclusive worship continues to take root. We have approximately 60 people 'on the rolls'. 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.

As we grew and developed in 2017-18 we've hired a very part time music director, children's ministry coordinator and community life minister – as well as created a new 'core vision team'. We had 3 baptisms in 2017 and 1 in 2018. See www.abbeychurch.ca for more. There are usually 8-15 children present on Sunday afternoons.

Emmaus Community is active in conversations around establishing an monastic / community affordable Co-Housing style project tentatively known as **St. Francis' Abbey**. The dream is to respond to the issue of housing inaffordability which stunts community. We dream of multi-unit housing (currently 10-12 townhouse units, chapel, library, common kitchen) for this purpose and have a goal for 2-5 years to find our build for members and friends to live and practice hospitality in ever-deepening ways. We see this affordable housing unit as a way for

Christians to live together and live a liberating Rule of Life together, while practicing radical and inclusive hospitality and providing a way of being intentional community in a context where housing is not affordable for most people; including young families.

Emmaus Community housed and hosted the **Starfields Festival** (www.starfields.ca) on April 13-15, 2018. Shane Claiborne, Hope Bay Common, Rae Spoon, Linda MacRae, Leela Gilday, the Kairos Blanket exercise and many other arts and justice initiatives were part of the festival. In 2017 we hosted Welsh singer-songwriter Martyn Joseph and had a concert on Shrove Tuesday with the Odd Hack Band – and have encouraged local artists through talks and exhibits at the AbbeyChurch.

In November 2018 we hosted the **Resurrect Learning Party** (<https://www.newleafnetwork.ca/events/resurrect-learning-party/>) in collaboration with BC Conference, the New Leaf Church Planting Network and the Anglican Diocese; and bringing together emerging community leaders from the United, Anglican, Lutheran and Presbyterian Churches; including leaders from the Parish Collective, Wild Church, Church of the Apostles, and more.

Emmaus Community continues to discern our future, and are excited about what God is doing in our midst.

We are grateful to the St. Philip for supporting us in this vision for neo-monastic Christian Community in Victoria and continue to journey alongside you - and connected in many ways with you as we re-imagine what it means to be Church at this time!

The Rev. Rob Crosby-Shearer

Oak Bay High School Outreach

This year I was fortunate to be able to actively serve and connect with students at Oak Bay High School. I accomplished many hours for this through my role as the team leader for Young Life at Oak Bay. At Oak Bay last year, I helped in the math room as a tutor for all grades, and this year I am supervising the weight room Friday afternoons. In helping out at the school, I have met many students and have connected with old and new teachers. As a Young Life leadership team, we focus on building friendships with core “Campaigner” kids whom we meet with regularly, and then are introduced to their friends. We let them do any inviting out to events such as our weekly club. We believe that the best witness to a high school teenager is a high school teenager.

Through Young Life, we have run club, campaigners, and camp. Last year we hosted a campaigners bible study in the youth room on Thursday mornings. This school year we have transitioned to hosting at one of our campaigners house. It is an open, thought provoking, and good time of fellowship for high school students who are interested in studying the Bible. A few grade 10 boys and I have been able to connect really well. In the summer one of them invited me up to their week at Shawnigan Lake for an afternoon with all of his friends so they could hear about Young Life.

Club runs almost every week of the school year. The Carmichaels and the Horwoods have graciously hosted us. Club runs at 7:07pm on Thursday night, and is created to be fun and lively, as well as reflective. The structure is the same each time we do club: we play games, get kids to come up for skits, sing fun songs, and share a club talk. One of my highlights this year was seeing the improvement in one of our leaders ability to speak up front for club talks.

Finally, a key component of high school outreach in the summer times is camp. St. Philip played an instrumental role in helping kids go to camp. Last summer we washed 26 cars and had three bake sales at the church. Three kids from our St. Philip youth group attended summer camp from the eighteen that came from Oak Bay High. We also just recently attended New Year's camp, which includes opportunities such as tubing, hockey, curling, fireside conversations, and fun evening clubs where we sing songs and hear the gospel..

This year, I have met many new people at Oak Bay, and hope to continue these relationships. I am grateful for the financial support that St. Philip has gifted me with to help make all of the hours of high school outreach possible. I will be continuing to serve at Oak Bay and would appreciate prayer for good connection with students and that they would hear about the love of Jesus!

If the proposal for a renewal of High School Outreach funding for this coming year is passed at the AGM, one added piece will be a check-up meeting with a small group of about 3-4 St. Philip members that would meet approximately every six weeks. This would allow St. Philip to stay in tune with what is happening and to offer support in this role.

Caleb Hosie

Orange Shirt Day

For the second year in a row, St. Philip acknowledged Orange Shirt Day and the legacy of Residential Schools on September 30, 2018. From July through September, St. Philip facilitated order and deliver of Orange Shirts to twenty different churches (including Anglican, United, and Lutheran), located all across Vancouver Island, as well as various miscellaneous individuals. About 60% of the churches were in the Greater Victoria region, with the rest in Duncan, Nanaimo, Lantzville, Qualicum, Comox, and Campbell River. Over 360 shirts were ordered through St. Philip, as well as books, buttons, and donations to Orange Shirt Day Victoria; the gross proceeds, a sum of over \$7500, were passed on to Kristin Spray, who coordinated the provincial event in Centennial Square.

I'm very grateful for the assistance and support of Karen Van Rheenen and Lindsay Baigent at St. Philip, Tony Foote at St. Paul in Nanaimo, Catherine Pate at the Synod Office, Kristin Spray and Eddie Charlie of Orange Shirt Day Victoria, and to Phyllis Jack-Webstad for sharing the story of her orange shirt.

On Orange Shirt Day itself, Kendra Gage, the Executive Director of Hulitan Family and Community Services Society, spoke at St. Philip at both the 9:00 am and 11:15 am services about the work Hulitan does, and about the inter-generational effects of Residential Schools. David Rolfe, who presided over the services, was joined by many parishioners in wearing their

Orange Shirts to church, and a special Sunday School lesson was prepared by Shannon Carmichael on the topic as well. Thank you as well to all those at St. Philip who ordered shirts or wore shirts, and who otherwise contributed to this shared endeavour.

Respectfully submitted, Alice Jourmel

Street Hope

The past year we have seen God at work in many ways through Street Hope Victoria. Even though we have faced challenges, there have been reminders of God's faithfulness and care. We are so thankful for your ongoing support for Street Hope. We appreciate your prayers as we share Christ's love. We are thankful for your gifts of tangible items like shoe boxes, clothing and food, as well as your faithful financial commitment. It is because of God's generosity through you that we are able to be generous with those in need.

We had a few guys come into the RV who had never been in before. They were very curious about Street Hope and why we volunteered. We often see this in our visitors, and many make the connection between God and why we are out on the street with the RV. Even as we fumble for the words to express God's goodness and care, and sometimes lose patience and respond in ways that do not reflect his boundless mercy, our visitors acknowledge him and his goodness, and how he is our motivation for what we do. We see that as a sign that God is at work in their lives, and that he is making himself known to them.

God has also been faithful in providing for our financial needs. Regular giving from supporters like you was enough to cover our operating expenses. This year we took the RV in to have the roof re-sealed (recommended every few years). When it was inspected, it turned out to need a more extensive (and more expensive) refurbishment. Thankfully, we were awarded a grant from the Anglican Diocese to cover the cost. The grant also helped pay for a new backup camera to assist our drivers.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely, Rob Hosie

Young Life

Young Life continues to be a mission committed to loving teenagers in their world and encouraging them to know Christ. Area Director Kevin Scott continues to guide the teams of volunteer leaders as they run Clubs across Victoria: Young Life for grades 9-12 at Oak Bay, Lambrick, and Spectrum, and Wyldlife for grades 6-8 at Colquitz, Lansdowne, and Cedar Hill. The leadership teams strive to create meaningful mentoring relationships where teenagers feel valued and where questions of life and faith are explored.

Young Life and these youth are thankful for the generous support of the parishioners this year in helping them raise funds to attend summer and New Year's camp at Young Life's RockRidge Canyon outside of Princeton, BC. Several bake sales and a grand car wash were fun avenues for the teens to raise the money needed.

What is Young Life and how does it work? The five C's of Young Life include:

Contact Work is the vital part of Young Life where leaders spend time with teens in their world: at school and sporting events, coffee shops, skate parks or wherever they hang out. Through contact work solid mentoring relationships are built.

Club is the name of the regular meetings hosted by Young Life volunteer leaders and staff for their teen-aged friends. It is launched by the relationships they have built through contact work. These meetings are attended by teens from junior and senior high schools and include music, humorous skits and a brief talk about the Christian faith.

Campaigners is the name given to weekly small-group meetings of our student leaders, who are also called campaigners. This meeting, often early before school, is an opportunity to gather with a smaller group of friends, grow in faith and discuss leadership of the local Young Life club.

Camps are a highlight for teens and focus on what matters most to them – fun, adventure, friendship and a sense of significance. A unique aspect of our camping program is that teens attend with their leader they've come to know throughout the school year. Teens in western Canada attend Young Life of Canada's beautiful resort camp called RockRidge Canyon, located near Princeton, BC. Many teens leave YL camp saying, "It was the best week of my life!"

Committee: each local area is supported by a committee of adults who meet monthly to pray for the ministry, support the local staff & leaders, and raise funds to support the work of the area.

For more information check out www.younglife.ca or speak with St. Philip's Young Life mission representative, *Brenda Hosie*.

Music Ministry

Family Services

During 2018, the music for the 9 a.m. services was led by five volunteer praise groups supplemented in summer and fall by Jen Strohschein, who graciously agreed to take on an official paid role leading music with various singers on the numerous Sundays that could not be covered by the regular groups. Alice Jourmel plays a major role in the new system as she agreed to support Jen in much of the preparation work for the services. Alice also sings with a couple of groups and continues to organize the rota, itself a significant task. Jen and Alice's contributions have restored the sustainability of our praise music rota and reduced the likelihood of burnout by all concerned, as well as making it possible for our family to go traveling for ten weeks. We are very thankful to both of them.

Katherine Haupt helped identify which songs sung in the last several years are most well known to the congregation, which was a significant help in planning the summer music selections. Sharon Richmond volunteered to help organize music into binders for those groups that have been major consumers of single use photocopy paper for each service, for which we (and the environment) are grateful.

The music for the Christmas Eve service was greatly enhanced by the accompaniment of Ian Carmichael and Annabelle Fieltsch on organ and piano, who spent many hours in preparation and practice. Thank you again and we hope we will get to hear both of you more often before next Christmas. Thank you as well to Anthony Hendriks and Ceilidh Briscoe for being always willing to jump in and play along with whatever group is on deck, adding wonderful orchestral layers to our praise sound.

Once again, the church continues owes great thanks to all its musicians as well as the ever willing overhead projector team and sound crew. We continue to be greatly blessed by the talents of so many in our congregation.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Conway

11:15 am Service

2018 was a difficult year for the choir as we had so many choristers that moved away, became sick, or died. Altogether we lost 5 choristers but God has been good and brought Sue McLeod (who we have missed a lot) back to us and blessed us with our new member, Ann Geddes! It's always a wonderful treat when Russ Harp returns to the choir from April through October. We soon will regretfully have to say good bye to Tim Kilgore who is now married to Zion and will be relocating to Nigeria. We trust he will return to us from time to time and bless us with his gift of music.

In October we lost Stephanie Williams very suddenly. This event completely rocked our choir world as we all loved Stephanie so very much. I still cannot believe she is not here with us, but I look over on Sundays and sure enough, she is not there. Stephanie was a huge help and friend to me from the day I arrived at St. Philip up until the very end. I miss her dreadfully. The choir had celebrated Stephanie's 55th year in the choir in May of this past year. The party was held at the Page's residence and we all, now in retrospect, were sure happy to have spent that time acknowledging such commitment and reliability. For Stephanie's funeral there was a great showing of choristers from the general body of the church as we sang one of Stephanie's favorite songs, "The Blessing of Aaron". In addition, we were gifted to have Spencer Taylor, tenor, sing The Lord's Prayer, another of Stephanie's favorites.

I am slowly cleaning out the choir anthems as there are some very old arrangements in the stacks that are not suitable at all for our choir. As well, there are many that can be recycled. My desire is to hopefully have a choral music swap with the other churches out in the parking lot one Saturday or Sunday afternoon in June. I have purchased very little music for the church in the time I have been there as it is not necessary and I have my own stack of anthems and music collected over the years.

In 2018, the choir performed several anthems during our services, and always special, were joined by several children and additional choristers and musicians from the 9 am services for our special Easter, Thanksgiving, and Lessons and Carols services. Thank you so much to Anthony Hendriks, Ceal McLean, Sharon Richmond, Dana Reiter, David Bird, Zita and Dave Conway, Susan, Mary Howarth, Mary-Louise Aro, Bob and Bonny Jackson, Amanda

Weinermann, Alice Jourmel. and our special guests for Lessons and Carols – Laura Earnshaw, Johnny Horwood, Chris Horwood and Lily Dunn. All the children who have participated from time to time need to have a special mention as they really have made these holiday services fresh, bright, pure and downright sweet. Sophie, Isabelle, Merria, Kamila, Abby, Ella, Amaya, Emma, Emily, Iona.

We were gifted by hearing a special solo, “God Bless the Hunchback,” sung by Isabelle Koopmans around the theme of missions to India. A pure and sweet reminder from the voice of a child that each one – we all – are, cherished, beloved and “children of God”. Our friend and local tenor, Kyron Basu, gifted us on a few occasions this past year and we so appreciate him sharing his beautiful tenor voice in song.

Linnea Koopmans and Caleb Hosie participated in a production, The True Spirit of Christmas, filmed down by Christ Church Cathedral. The point of this was to encourage a becoming like a child as we approached the Christmas season, and to act out of spontaneous love when we see others less fortunate or cast out by society. Linnea truly captured the essence of this, giving simple gifts to Caleb (the homeless one) of a pillow for the head, food for the body, presents under the decorated tree, and in the end, as an after thought, her cherished stuffy. The clip was shown during Christmas at the church and truly did move people. The prayer is that this child-like and utterly non-judgmental, uncontaminated love will stay with us during the whole year...

I would like to thank the loyal and faithful choristers who, week by week, show up and lead our 11:15 congregation in worship. Your commitment and gifts are such a blessing to the church and I.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jill Ann Siemens
11:15 Music Director*

Office Administration

The tasks I undertake throughout the year fall into three main categories, in addition to miscellaneous technical, staff and volunteer support duties:

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

2018 was another busy year at St. Philip. In the winter, I prepared the Annual Report as well as parishioners’ 2017 tax receipts. In the spring and summer, I had the pleasure of working with Betty Davidson as she took over the Envelope Secretary role. I was blessed this summer as well by several months of regular mentorship meetings with Gillian Fosdick. Her support and

guidance were immensely helpful. During this time I also coordinated a number of Orange Shirt Day endeavours, as detailed in the Missions section of this report.

In September, I participated in a Diocesan-sponsored Dismantling Racism: Train-the-Trainer retreat at the Bethlehem Centre in Nanaimo. I look forward to participating in further training in 2019 and sharing what I've learned with people at St. Philip and across the Diocese. With the assistance of Caleb Hosie, I facilitated a movie + discussion night for young adults in December.

However, one event looms larger than all of these in my mind and heart – the loss of my dear friend, Stephanie Williams, in October. For the three years I have worked at St. Philip, she came in on a weekly basis to fold bulletins, and do a number of other tasks. I was – and am – so thankful for her companionship, warm spirit, and generously-shared knowledge of St. Philip.

Thank you to Pat Kilner, whose eagle-eyes spot the smallest typo, and who graciously offered to fold the bulletins on Thursdays following Stephanie's death. Pat, Marnie Philips, and Nancy Geddes also helped at various times throughout the year with folding and proofreading.

Thank you as well to Gillian Fosdick and Felicity Bradley for filling in for me during my holidays this year. And a special thanks to Ken Davidson and Clayton Savage for their vision and labour in renovating the photo-copier room.

*Respectfully submitted, Alice Jourmel
Office Administrator*

Overhead Team (9:00 a.m. Service)

You will notice Dana Reiter, Kathy Fyfe, Dave Adams, Alice Jourmel & Susan Smith in the front pew using the computer to provide the service on the overhead screen. Thank you all.

Submitted by Susan Smith (scheduler)

Prayers of the People

At St. Philip we have an amazing roster of people who take the Prayers of the People during Sunday Services.

Here are the people who have assisted in 2018: At the 8:00 service, Christopher is assisted in the prayers by John Laidlaw. At the 9:00 service, Mark Graham, Mitch Hammond, Chris Harvey, Ruth McGhee, Tracey Morris, Jennifer Sharlow, Christopher Page and I have offered the Prayers of the People. At the 11:15 service, Gillian Fosdick assists in the service and offers the Prayers.

We are thankful for and blessed by each person who offers these prayers on behalf of the whole congregation.

Sharon Richmond

Stairwell Gallery

The Stairwell Gallery at St Philip has operated under the direction of Jaqueline Cornelia Van Voorst.

In 2018 the poster boards came down, the stairwell space was painted, track lighting installed and there began an intention to offer emerging artists in our city a place to exhibit their work. Jaqueline viewed art as an expression, an experience and as an outreach for St. Philip.

Jaqueline curated the following shows in 2018, she retired in September.

JANUARY: **Love with Us** - Members of St Philip contributed an object from their everyday life which reminded them of the presence of love.

DECEMBER 2017 to APRIL 2018: **Terre Memoire Installation** Pyx Sutherland in the Nave.

MARCH/APRIL: **Francis Robe Installation** Pyx Sutherlandk

MAY: renovations

JUNE/SEPTEMBER: **Iconic Blue** - Contemporary drawings, paintings and collage reflecting the space and atmosphere of Victoria's iconic "Blue Bridge" by Jane Coombe

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER: **This Tender Earth** artists: Trish Stewart, Joanne Hewks, Anna Curtin, Kate Scoones, Heather Barr, Ester Parker, Jane Coombe, Mary Babineau

PLANS FOR 2019: To exhibit art from within the St. Philip Church community to be displayed as a joyful reflection of their gifts.

Submitted by Sharon Richmond

Sound Team

At the back of the church you'll find Mario DiLucca, Jaqueline van Voorst, Scott Alexander and Susan Smith monitoring the sound for anyone using a microphone during the service, as well as recording the sermons for posting to the website. Thank you all.

Submitted by Susan Smith (scheduler)

Syrian Refugee Committee

Bouchra's Family Sponsorship

Our one-year formal commitment to Bouchra and her three children ended in May, 2018. Bouchra and her family required more dental work than originally budgeted, so the committee successfully applied to the Diocese for help with these costs and received \$2,700. Before the end of the sponsorship, we were able to help Bouchra to apply to the B.C. Housing Registry and Pacifica Housing for an apartment with an income tested rent. Pacifica offered Bouchra an affordable apartment and committee members helped Bouchra to move and provided a washer and dryer. Following the end of the sponsorship, the committee has continued to provide

extensive non-financial support for the family in various ways, including much assistance dealing with paperwork for government and other agencies, acting as liaisons with schools and dentists, and providing tutoring and support in English and other school subjects.

We continue to be grateful to Amanda Weirnerman for her help in finding work for Bouchra as a cleaner. Unfortunately, Bouchra has not been able to take on an increased workload beyond her current part time work due to back injuries from lifting Fadil in and out of the wheelchair when the family was still in Syria and Lebanon.

Badr's Refugee Application

The St. Philip Refugee Committee and Bouchra Molki signed the documentation in November 2017 to sponsor Badr Molki (Bouchra's brother) at Bouchra's request. His application is being processed by the Canadian Embassy in Beirut. He went to a preliminary interview in October 2018. Based on current processing times we hope that he will come to Canada toward the end of 2019.

Jennifer Plumridge has been offering online ESL instruction to Badr. He is an engaged and diligent student.

Badr and Bouchra's parents are listed on Badr's application as de-facto dependants. This means that after Badr arrives their sponsorship can be pursued.

Bouchra has mentioned that she would also like to sponsor one of her daughters to come to Canada. The St. Philip Refugee Committee has decided that it wishes to see Badr settled before considering further sponsorships. The Diocese also requires co-sponsors to be reasonably fluent in English.

Finances

The St. Philip Refugee Committee completed its financial support for Bouchra and her family at the end of April 2018. Because of exceptionally high dental costs for the family, we slightly exceeded our December 2016 - April 2018 budget of \$52,915 by \$756 for a total expenditure on the family of \$53,671. This total expenditure included one year of support once the family arrived in Canada as well as \$7,200 as the cost of holding a 3-bedroom apartment for them for four months while we waited for their arrival before and after Fadil's hospitalization.

After fulfilling all of our financial commitments to Jordie and Habbous and Bouchra and their families, the Committee has \$17,194.68 in the bank as of December 31, 2018.

The Committee is now looking ahead to the sponsorship of Bouchra's brother Badr as a refugee. The Diocese's guidelines indicate we should have \$25,000 plus about \$2000 to cover his travel to Canada, a total of \$27,000. All of the funds currently in the bank will be dedicated to this outcome. As well, committee members have generously pledged a further \$8,800 towards Badr's sponsorship. Some of these pledges were donated in 2018 but most of these funds will be donated when we know for certain that Badr will make it to Canada. Including both bank assets and outstanding pledges, we believe we have roughly \$24 - \$25,000 of the needed \$27,000. This means we will hope to fundraise a further \$2,000 - 3,000 in 2019.

Thank you from Parish of Fort Langley

In 2016 the Diocese asked for Parishes with surplus refugee funds to help the Parish of Fort Langley with the urgent sponsorship of a Syrian refugee couple who were known to be in continuing danger. Our committee donated \$5,000 to Fort Langley and this year the Parish of Fort Langley sent us a thank you note. The couple are now able to live independently.

New and Continuing Committee Roles

Part way through 2018 Gweneth Doane and Carl Evers took over as Co-Chairs of the committee from Zita and Dave Conway. Gweneth's son, Adrian, continues to be a valuable resource in Beirut. Carl has joined the Diocesan Refugee Committee – Finance Sub-Committee – primarily to further develop the finance “workshops” that committees can use with refugees.

Ceal McLean continues as our treasurer, and Karen Van Rheenen as our minute taker, so they serve officially as the committee's liaison with St. Philip's Parish Council.

Carl Evers and Dave Conway

On behalf of St. Philip Refugee Committee

Usher / Greeter Team (9:00 a.m. Service)

When you come in the front door 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 Smith (scheduler)

Verger's Report

The position of Verger was fulfilled by Caleb Hosie until May 2018. Caleb focused on the general maintenance, cleanliness and upkeep of the church. He also took on the painting of the stairwell, in order to display artwork in our “Stairwell Gallery.” This particular task was completed with the help of a group of Young Life Leaders.

In May, I took over the duties of Verger, with the assistance of my husband, Neal Tucker. We too focused on the maintenance of the church along with a few small repairs. We installed new hooks for hanging banners as requested by the Altar Guild and hooks for pageant backdrops. The carpet was also secured in vulnerable places to ensure the safety of all parishioners. Repairs were undertaken on sink plumbing, lights fixtures fixed, light bulbs replaced and thermostats managed. There was also a minor repair done to the wood on the altar rail. In the summer the annual basement floor waxing was completed. Service repair and replacement of the UPS power supply was accomplished in October.

Along with the duties, co-ordination with the Preschool was established and maintained to ensure smooth weekly transition of the basement and also addressing of any issues requiring

attention. This communication has benefited the flow of the basement utilization. Sweeping of outside areas was begun in November to keep the pathways clear of debris.

Seasonal and special function requirements have been undertaken and completed as required by St Philip's staff and organizers. This has included funeral, Pageant, Christmas, Stairwell Gallery and Speech Arts to name a few. We have assisted with the setup, configuration and take down of the new (great) stage. My husband is officially taking over the Verger title in February and we have both been happy to be of service to the church.

Jennifer Sharlow

Youth Ministry

This year the youth group has gone well. Being year two of my role as the youth leader, I was able to see throughout the year better as to how things would flow.

Sunday mornings during the sermon and prayer time the youth meet downstairs. We start with our pits and peaks, and then transition into an interactive bible study, an art project relating to Scripture, a short film followed by discussion, or a walk-n-talk to Pure Vanilla. This past year, I thought to of ways to integrate more fun into our environment during Sunday morning youth, and to keep the focus on learning and exploring the Bible and faith topics.

Saturday evenings we typically do a youth event every two weeks. Some of the highlight events from this past year were BQ at the Fieltsch's, Mexican themed cooking night at Larry and Joan's, putting together shoebox hampers, and a backyard movie night at the Carmichael's. Thanks to all of the families that have helped out and for leaders that have stepped in.

This past year, we went on four retreats. We went to Mt. Washington for a day, Hornby Island for a four day family camping trip, and to Vancouver for a one day trip. Hornby Island was the first youth trip designed to incorporate families. The first one was a fun time, and we will be continuing the tradition this summer. Our trip to Vancouver included 8 people that went over for a church service to St. Peter's Fireside and for a Whitecaps game.

In the past few months, our youth have done two combined youth events with the Victoria Alliance youth group just a few blocks away on Townley St. In our most recent gathering we met at St. Philip's to sing Christmas carols, build gingerbread houses, decorate cookies, and play a night game.

Thank you to all of the people that have helped with youth this year including Simon Tuffin, Dave Adams, Al and Shannon Carmichael, Rachel Page, Hazel Curry, Larry and Joan, Ruth McGhee, and Brenda Hosie.

This coming season we are going to be running Alpha. Alpha will run weekly on Sunday nights and is an opportunity for students to learn more and discuss certain introductory topics in regards to the Christian faith.

Caleb Hosie

ST. PHILIP ANGLICAN CHURCH

Annual General Meeting

ELECTION BALLOT 2019

WARDEN Two-Year Terms (Elected); 2 positions

Sharon Richmond 1 year remaining
Karen Van Rheenen nominated for 2 year term

SYNOD DELEGATE Three-Year Terms (Elected); 3 positions

Karen Van Rheenen 2 years remaining
Dave Conway 2 years remaining
Jennifer Sharlow nominated for 3 year term

TREASURER Five-Year Terms (Appointed); 1 position

Ged McLean 4 years remaining

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER-AT-LARGE Two-Year Terms (Elected); 7 positions

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