



# Wildfire 2017

## Relief Fund

St Timothy's, 100 Mile House	\$5000.00
St Peter's, William Lake	\$5000.00
St Luke's, Alexis Creek	\$1000.00
St Michael's, Prince George	\$3000.00
Grace Church, Prince George	\$3000.00
St George's, Kamloops	\$3000.00
St Paul's, Kamloops	\$3000.00
St John's, Quesnel	\$1000.00
St Alban's, Ashcroft	\$3000.00
North Thompson Shared Ministry	\$1000.00
St Peter's, Monte Creek	\$1000.00
Lillooet Shared Ministry	\$1000.00
Lytton Parishes	\$1000.00
Shulus Parish	\$1000.00
St Michael's, Merritt	\$1000.00

An amount of \$5000.00 was disbursed to St Peter's Williams Lake and \$5,000 to St Timothy's 100 Mile House, designated for Crisis Intervention training.

Each community within the Territory was requested to submit a written report to the Bishop by June 2018 –regarding the use of the funds disbursed to them.

Here's a few examples of how those funds were used...

### Alexis Creek – Rebuilding for a family

*"Dear Friends at Alexis Creek Anglican Church...*

*We had not anticipated the adventure of "starting over" at this stage of our lives. But God remains our solid rock as He has been through the other ups and downs of our journey. Thank you very much for your gift of \$1,000 to help with re-building. The support and kindness of churches, friends and neighbours has been amazing."*

St. John the Divine, Quesnel – two families with children with special needs

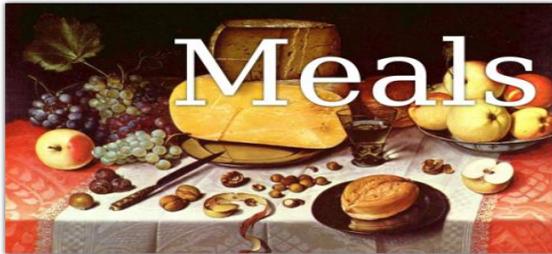
*"It is with grateful hearts we were given the pleasure of disbursing fire funds entrusted to us to gift to individuals affected by the wild fires...we felt the need to support our motto of "Draw the Circle Wide, Draw it Wider Still" ... we chose two families who not only did the fires impact their personal lives, but their ability to continue their livelihood since they are self-employed. Both families have children with special needs."*

St. Peter's Monte Creek

*"It was decided by unanimous vote, (at the Annual General Meeting), the funds will be held in case there should be fire or flooding in the near future."*

## Grace Anglican Church – Prince George...

\$1,500 to the St. Vincent de Paul for their meal program which actively supports those in need, including those who travelled to Prince George during the 2017 Wild Fire Season and have remained in Prince George.



\$750 to the New Hope Society who identify and address the barriers that both adult and youth womyn face while working in sex work and survival sex in Prince George and Northern BC. New Hope creates a place of safety and security for womyn, to access support services pertinent to their needs.



\$750 to the Salvation Army Food Bank... who's vital community ministry is one of the largest food banks in BC. This organization still continues to provide support to evacuees who remain in the Prince George community.



Revenue for parishes throughout the Territory was severely impacted by the wildfires. Most parishes reported a drastic drop in offerings. Parishioners with respiratory concerns remained indoors due to poor air quality, many people were evacuated to other towns and cities, and still others were financially impacted by the fires.

Many of our parishes extended hospitality to evacuees seeking rest and refuge. Some parishes used the fire funds to offset their revenue shortfall which extended beyond the actual fire season; to balance their budget and preclude the need for grant funding from the Territory.

### St. Alban's Ashcroft

With the flood of aid which flowed into the Ashcroft area, and concern as to how best to invest the funds donated directly to St. Alban's ministry, the congregation agreed to donate the funds to the United Way to help best distribute the funds to support the recovery efforts in the community and those in the surrounding area, including Cache Creek.

The United Way have been and continues to work within those communities on wellness and recovery in various ways: 2017 Christmas gifts to all the residents of Boston Flats; Psycho Social First Aid training offered to all interested persons in Ashcroft and Cache Creek; together with other donations from across the province contributed towards the CMHA (Canadian Mental Health Association) hire of a counsellor specific to supporting the community of Ashcroft.

The remaining St. Alban's funds held by the United Way have been assigned to employ a local manager to work with those affected, to help keep their individual recovery and/or resettlement issues moving forward...

*"...this is incredible work and is making a major difference in the lives of those affected as they now have an advocate who is still working with them a year later and helping move their claims along."*

### **St. Michael's and All Angels, Prince George...**

\$2,000 was donated to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Drop-In Centre in Prince George where staff and volunteers prepare and serve wholesome meals to their guests.



During the wild fires, 11,000 people were evacuated from Williams Lake to Prince George; St. Vincent de Paul fed 400 guests three times a day for the duration of the evacuation.

When it was safe to return home, 45 people did not return to Williams Lake and continue to be fed by the Society.

\$1,000 was donated to the St Vincent de Paul Society Soup Bus program. On Sundays when the Society is closed, the Soup Bus feeds the hungry, homeless people who would otherwise not have access to a hot meal.

### **St. Peter's, Williams Lake**

Of the funds received by St. Peter's, a significant amount was designated to the ASIST program (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) an internationally recognized workshop which builds skills and confidence in suicide intervention. In addition to this training, "Safe Talk" courses will also be offered in the Fall of 2018.

Other funds were used... to replace income lost during the evacuation period in the summer of 2017; as discretionary funding for parish members in need in the community.

### **St. Andrew's and St. Mary's, Lillooet**

Although Lillooet was impacted by smoke from the 2017 wildfires and some people sought refuge in the town, the residents were not evacuated. The church board voted to disburse the \$1,000 allocated to them from the wildfire fund to assist other parishes which were impacted.

\$500 was sent to St. Timothy's 100 Mile House for their community spaghetti dinner;



\$500 was given to St. Alban's Ashcroft for their use in helping those who lost their homes.