

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

**Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador
Anglican Parish of St. Philip
Bishop: The Right Rev Dr. Geoffrey Peddle
Rector: Rev. Edward Keeping**



stphilipsanglicanchurch@nf.aibn.com

Telephone: 895 – 0715

Website: www.anglicanparishofstphilip.com

**The Reverend Edward Keeping -
(Home) 754-3748 (Cell) 687-7109**

Deacon: The Rev. Edgar Bonnell

Honorary Assistants:

**The Rev. Canon Bert Cheeseman
The Rev. Canon Shirley Gosse
The Rev. Russell Osmond
The Rev. Canon Don Morgan**

**Rector's Warden – Margaret Boone 782-0988
People's Warden – Margaret Tucker 895-2251**

**A WARM WELCOME IS EXTENDED TO ALL OUR
PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS WHO ARE WORSHIPPING
WITH US TODAY**

December 24th, 2014 (Year A)

**The Bulletin today is given to the glory of God and in Loving
Memory of:**

Our dear Father, Grandfather, & Great-Grandfather

William G. Tucker

By Catherine, Baxter, Michael, Tanya & Great-Granddaughter Zoe
Rose

Brother, Brother-in-law, and Uncle

Walter Tucker

By Catherine, Baxter, Michael & family

Father & Mother:

Cecil & Alvina Tucker

Harold & Doris Piercey

And Brother:

John Tucker

By John & Winnie Piercey

Winston H. Squires

Always Remembered, Forever Loved
By wife Emily, Tony, Paula, Lori & families

**John King, Lloyd King, Gordon & Christine Tucker and other
loved ones**

By Elizabeth & Yvonne King and family

Parish Mission Statement

God's people in the Parish of St. Philip, in a covenant relationship
with God through Baptism, are called....

- ‡ To be Fishers of people in response to the call of Jesus, in
the power of the Holy Spirit;
- ‡ To be a House of Prayer
- ‡ To be a Centre for Christian Teaching;
- ‡ To be Disciples in learning;
- ‡ To be a fellowship of Loving and Sacrificial Service;
- ‡ To be Witnesses to our Lord's Love through Word and
Example.

**Launching out into the
Deep....
Into New Spiritual
Depths**



From the Rector's Desk

Christmas! The sounds, sights and smell abound. This day, long
awaited, so meticulously planned for, has finally arrived. Families,
friends and even strangers will gather in celebration and merriment.
We are overwhelmed by the emotion evoked and the activity
around us.

That night, two thousand years ago, was also filled with high
emotion and activity: throngs of people descending on a small town
of Bethlehem.... Everyone looking for shelter at the same time...
Mary and Joseph, caught in the scramble made all the more urgent
by pending birth... then settling in... the birth itself... the

unexpected visitors drawn to babe to the babe. So overwhelming! But in the midst of all this activity, Mary treasures all that she hears and ponders in her heart all that has happened over the past few days/years.

First, I want to welcome you warmly To St. Philip's Church as we celebrate the **Birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.** God coming amongst us as a baby born in a stable in a little town known as Bethlehem. So as we gather here now, in the midst of our joyous celebration and activity, as we are called to step aside and ponder in our hearts the true meaning of this day. We have been preparing for months for this day which was conveyed by the Angels and the Shepherds that night so long ago. We stand aside from our culture and individualism and consumerism to ponder what Christ's coming means for us today. Does he make a difference in our Lives? Are we making a difference for Him in the world in which we live? Are we preparing for a time when He shall return, not as a baby but as Judge and Redeemer?

As we celebrate His birth this evening there are many questions we may be facing and I pray that you will find the answers in this service or days to come. In search of your answer and finding it that you will find the Christ – Child.

Let his Love and Peace reign in your life as you celebrate with your family and friends and us in this service to proclaim the one who is referred to as the Everlasting Son, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Lord, True Light, and The Word.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Rev. Ed

MILESTONES

Congratulations Ches & Ethel Barfitt who celebrated their wedding Anniversary on December 20th.

If anyone knows of someone in the Parish celebrating a milestone in their lives, please contact the Church Office.

Schedule of Services

Christmas Eve, December 24th

4:00 PM - Children's Pageant and short form of Holy Eucharist (BAS)

Eucharistic Asst: Mose Tucker
Sidesperson: Karen Puglisevich

7:00 PM - Holy Eucharist (BAS)

Eucharistic Asst: Ann Lambert, Jennifer Tucker
Counters: Linda Roberts, Todd Martin
Sidesperson: Don Morgan

11:00 PM - Holy Eucharist (BCP)

Eucharistic Asst: Debbie Collis, Harve Hiscock
Counters: Don Morgan, Ruth Hiscock
Sidesperson: John Parrell

1st Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 28th

9:30 AM - Holy Communion (BCP)

Eucharistic Asst: Charlie Gosse
Counters: Lori Johnson and Linda Thomas
Sidesperson: Karen Puglisevich

7:30 PM - Carol & Lesson Service

(The list of names for which flowers were placed in the Sanctuary for Christmas will be read at this service)

A Stewardship Thought for the Week

A Gift

A friend of mine named Paul received a new automobile from his brother as a Christmas present. On Christmas Eve, when Paul came out of his office, a street urchin was walking around the shiny new car admiring it. "Is this your new car, mister?" he asked.

Paul nodded, "my brother gave it to me for Christmas."

The boy was astounded, "You mean your brother gave it to you and didn't cost you anything? Boy, I wish..." he hesitated.

And Paul knew what he was going to wish. He was going to wish he had a brother like that. But what the lad said jarred Paul all the way down to his heels.

"I wish," the boy went on; "that I could be a brother liked that."

Paul looked at the boy in astonishment, and then impulsively he added, "Would you like to ride in my automobile?"

"Oh, yes I'd like that."

After a short ride, the urchin turned and with his eyes aglow said, "Mister, would you mind driving in front of my house?"

Paul smiled a little. He thought he knew what the lad wanted. He wanted to show his neighbors that he could ride home in a big automobile. But Paul was wrong again.

"Will you stop where those two steps are?" the boy asked.

He ran up the steps. Then in a little while Paul heard him coming back but he was not coming fast. He was carrying his little polio – crippled brother. He sat him down on the bottom step, then sort of squeezed up against him and pointed to the car.

"There she is, Bobby, just like I told you upstairs. His brother gave it to him for Christmas and it didn't cost him a cent. And some day I'm gonna give you one just like it.... Then you can see for yourself all the pretty things in the Christmas windows that I've been trying to tell you about."

Paul got out and lifted the little lad to the front seat of his car. The shining eyed older brother climbed in beside him and the three of them began a memorable holiday ride.

That Christmas Eve Paul learned what Jesus meant when He said: "**It is more blessed to give.....**" -author unknown

Church Chuckle

Saying a prayer for the Christmas Meal:

Lee. A seven –year –old boy, was asked to say thanks for the Christmas dinner. The family members bowed their head in expectation. Lee began the prayers, thanking God for his mommy, daddy, brothers, sister, Grandma and all his aunts and uncles. Then he began to thank God for the food.

He gave thanks for the turkey, the stuffing, the Christmas pudding, even the cranberry sauce. Then Lee paused and everyone waited... and waited.

After a long silence, the young boy looked at his mother and asked "If I thank God for the brussels sprouts won't he know that I'm lying".

Notices

Preauthorized Payment (e-Giving) of Church Offerings can now be offered to our parishioners. Many people find that this is a safe and convenient way to make their offerings and, if you are

interested, please complete the form which you will find in the pamphlet rack in the foyer.

For those who are giving by Pre – Authorized (e-Giving), there will be plastic cards available in the foyer which read “Giving Electronically to the Anglican Parish of St. Philip”. We want our people to think about giving to the church by this method.

December 21st, 2014

Regular Giving \$ 3,295.00

Dec. 21st 2014

Maintenance Fund \$ 130.00

Maintenance

Fund To date \$14,951.00

Church Calendars: The ACW still has church calendars for sale. They are \$5.00 each. If you would like to purchase one, please see Rebecca after church or call her at 895-2343.

Daily Morning Prayer (Mon thru Friday) is being held at 10:00 AM at the church. Anyone who would like to share in this service is welcome to come along.

St. Philip’s Anglican Church New Year’s Eve Party – Wednesday, December 31st at 9:00pm. Tickets are \$10.00 per person and are available by contacting Margaret Tucker or Rebecca Tucker.

Cards & Darts Fellowship: The Cards & Darts Fellowship will be held on the **4th Wednesday of each month**, at 8:00pm, **but not in December.** The next scheduled date is January 28th.

You can pick up your 2015 church envelopes as you leave the church this morning. They are in the foyer.

The Church’s financial books will close on Wednesday, December 31st at noon. At this time, I want to encourage our congregation to consider giving a little extra in the white envelope to meet our budget for 2014. I would like to mention as well, those who haven’t supported the ministry of the church in 2014, this is the time to give with a generous heart.

THANK YOU – To those who came on Monday evening and put up and decorated the Christmas tree.

Chaplaincy Services at Hospitals in St. John’s

When you are being admitted to a hospital in St. John’s, you should be asked, “While you are admitted to hospital, would you like to have a visit from a chaplain or pastoral care worker?” Be sure to say “Yes” if you would like a pastoral visit. You will then be asked to identify your religion, and your name will be added to the chaplain’s visitation list, and you will then receive a visit from the denominational chaplain within a day or two.

Also, the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army and United Church Chaplaincy Teams are continuing a pilot project to assess ways to share resources. The four denominations will share First-call Chaplain responsibilities at the hospitals in St. John’s. This means that each night one chaplain will receive all after-hours calls (5:00 pm to 8:00 am). That First-call Chaplain will determine if the chaplain from the patient’s own denomination is needed to provide particular services or supports (anointing/ communion).

Patients and families can request their denominational chaplain, if they so wish. The denominational chaplains will follow up with patients seen by the First-call Chaplain.

Please call your Parish Priest as well.

If any members of our congregation have a new e-mail address or changed his/her e-mail address, would you kindly e- mail us your new address.

Maintenance Fund – I do ask you to give regularly to this fund. In the spring, major work around the windows of this building will be required. Repairs are needed immediately to the main door of our church. Please continue to use your “Pink Envelope” to contribute to this Fund so when the time comes for repairs there will be funds available.

MEMORIAL BULLETIN: We encourage you to donate the weekly bulletin as a memorial to a departed loved one. The envelopes and information are available from the pamphlet rack in the foyer.

Parish Hall Rentals: The Parish Centre is available to members of the congregation and the public to rent for birthdays, weddings and anniversaries. Please consider renting the hall for your next important event. Any person want to rent the parish hall can call the church office at 895-0715.

Recyclable Donations: - for your convenience, boxes are located near Sharpe’s Store on Thorburn Road and Country Convenience, corner of Old Broad Cove Road and Bennett’s Road. This is a project of the ACM. If you can help with sorting the recyclables on Monday or Tuesday nights please call John Parrell. **Your help is needed.**

Dismissal to be sung at the end of the service:

“Go now in peace, never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true. Know he will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there, watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith and love.

Collect, Epistle and Gospel for Christmas Eve Scripture Readings for today, Dec. 24th.

1st Reading: **Isaiah 62: 6 – 12 Psalm 97 (page 835)** (Joyce Keeping)

2nd Reading: **Titus 3: 4 – 7** (Allie Wheeler)

Gospel: **Luke 2: 1 – 20** (Rev. Ed Bonnell)

The Scriptural Sentence for our worship today as appointed in our BAS Lectionary, page 273:

I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Collect for the Day. (In Unison) Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendor of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Launching out into the Deep (In unison) Bless, O Lord our God, the worship and work of this church. Grant that it may faithfully Launch Out into the Deep and respond to the call of Jesus to be fishers of people. By the power of your Holy Spirit make it a house of prayer, a Centre of Christian teaching and disciples in learning, a community of loving and sacrificial service, and a witness to your redeeming love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer over the Gifts: (In unison) Source of all light and gladness, accept all we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours; for he is Lord now and forever ? Amen.

Prayer after Communion: (In unison) Father of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature. May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Today in our Parish Cycle of Prayer, we pray for our parish families: Each week we remember a number of our families in our Prayers of the People: Blair & Tracy Sharpe, Boyde & Madonna Sharpe, Dawn Sharpe, Dawn & Eddie Sharpe, Dean & Lisa Sharpe, and their families.

In our Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for: Kubwa – (Abuja, Nigeria) The Rt. Rev. Duke Akamisoko

**Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year
To
You
all**