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# LIGHT IN THE COMMUNITY

St.Christopher's mission and outreach newsletter

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## Partner Church Spotlight

St. Paul's Anglican Church, Belwang, Northern Philippines

Communication and correspondence continues between St. Christopher's Church and St. Paul's in Belwang, Philippines.

This year, the Archbishop and a delegation from the Diocese of New Westminster will be visiting the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines. The trip is expected to take place from August 1 to 10.

- **Purpose:** To strengthen the companion diocese relationship established in 2016 between the two dioceses.
- **Activities:** The visit involves engaging with local ministry, visiting parishes, and strengthening Anglican ties between Canada and the Philippines.



This visit provides an opportunity for our church to send a suitable gift to our partner church. We have asked Archie how we can be involved in their asset-based community development program

## Flashback ...

Back on May 11, 2016, the Diocesan Council made a defining decision - unanimously and with great enthusiasm, they approved a motion to enter into what would become a meaningful and lasting partnership between the Diocese of New Westminster and the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines.



Now, ten years on, we celebrate the impact of that moment and the relationship it set in motion.

## Capilano Little Ones School – Xwemélch'stn Etsimxwawtxw

What began as a simple table of books has grown into something much more meaningful. Proceeds from the sale have been thoughtfully directed to support the library at Xwemélch'stn Etsimxwawtxw Capilano Little Ones School, helping to place more stories into the hands of young readers.

\$200 from book sales to date will be donated to the school on behalf of St. Christopher's Church. A heartfelt thank you to Sonia, Laura, and Val for curating such a wonderful and ever-changing collection - each book shared has helped build this gift.



## Outreach Initiaves

### Nowruz - celebrating the Persian New Year

Our recent Nowruz potluck lunch was a joyful celebration of culture, community, and the arrival of spring. Deep gratitude to our Chef Sohrab who cooked the memorable feast, preparing an array of delicious traditional dishes that delighted both the eyes and the palate.

As we gathered around the table, we not only enjoyed wonderful food but also learned more about Persian cuisine and the rich traditions behind it. The afternoon was filled with laughter, and warm conversation - an occasion that brought people together in friendship and curiosity.

It was a beautiful reminder of how much there is to discover when we share our stories, our food, and our lives with one another.

The lunch was offered by donation and raised \$858. We are pleased to share that all proceeds will go to IMPACT North Shore, (a for-purpose, social impact organization creating opportunities for success for immigrants and newcomers) extending the spirit of generosity beyond our gathering.



# Alongside Hope

Supporting the official international development and relief agency of the Anglican Church of Canada.



**Alongside Hope**

Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday have traditionally been the days when we come together to support Alongside Hope through our fundraising efforts.

This year on Ash Wednesday, we were grateful to hear an engaging and very informative presentation from Will Postma (Executive Director with Alongside Hope), who presented an information session sharing updates on the organization's global humanitarian work.

He presented an overview of Alongside Hope's global initiatives highlighting projects in Gaza, Kenya, Zambia, Burundi, Colombia, Mozambique, Madagascar, and Afghanistan; emphasizing their focus on healthcare, education, food security, and environmental conservation. Will also discussed their partnership with the Canadian Food Grains Bank and their support for communities affected by conflicts and natural disasters.

The presentation included slides showcasing various initiatives and success stories, such as the repatriation of Mi'kmaq indigenous artifacts and the reduction of child marriages in Zambia.

This cause has raised \$1,811 which includes parish collections, donations and budgeted funds of \$1,000 from St. Christopher's.

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In response to what we learned, Parish Council has prayerfully decided to direct these donations to support the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, managed and operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. It is a Christian hospital, originally founded in 1882, and serves as a vital medical resource under the oversight of the Anglican Church in the region. [Click here](#) to learn more about Gaza's last hospital, still standing.

### **Al-Ahli Hospital sustains Palm Sunday air strikes**



Views from inside and outside of St. Philip's Church at Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza.  
(Diocese of Jerusalem photo)

### **Mark your calendars**

#### **Sunday Sep 6, 2026**

The Reverend Peter Smythe, Chaplain with the Mission to Seafarers, will be joining us on September 6 as our guest preacher. Following the service, we will gather for a potluck lunch, during which Reverend Peter will share insights into the work of the Mission to Seafarers and the lives of the seafarers they support.

#### **Sunday Nov 1, 2026**

Following the service on November 1, we will gather for a potluck lunch, during which Scott Brubacher, Executive Director of the Anglican Foundation of Canada, will join us by Zoom. He will speak about the Foundation's role and the ways it supports dioceses and parishes across Canada.



## Who We Support

We invite you to visit these organizations online and learn more about their work:

- Alcoholics Anonymous – [northshoreaa.org](http://northshoreaa.org)
- Alongside Hope – [alongsidehope.org](http://alongsidehope.org)
- Anglican Foundation of Canada – [anglicanfoundation.org](http://anglicanfoundation.org)
- Diocese of Northern Philippines – [ecphilippines.org/northern-philippines](http://ecphilippines.org/northern-philippines)
- Family Services of the North Shore – [familyservices.bc.ca](http://familyservices.bc.ca)
- Harvest Project – [harvestproject.org](http://harvestproject.org)
- Impact North Shore - [impactnorthshore.ca](http://impactnorthshore.ca)
- A Loving Spoonful - [alovingspoonful.org](http://alovingspoonful.org)
- North Shore Crisis Services Society - [nscss.net](http://nscss.net)
- Lookout Housing & Health Society - [lookoutsociety.ca](http://lookoutsociety.ca)
- Mission to Seafarers – [flyingangel.ca](http://flyingangel.ca)
- St. George, West Kelowna – [stgeorgewestkelowna.org](http://stgeorgewestkelowna.org)
- Stars for Life Childcare & Education – [starsforlife.ca](http://starsforlife.ca)
- Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society – [vahs.life](http://vahs.life)
- Shaker Church, Squamish Nation – [squamish.net](http://squamish.net)
- Widows Group, St. Christopher's

Visit us at [www.stchristopherswestvan.org](http://www.stchristopherswestvan.org)

## Your support makes a world of difference

If you need more information on anything in this bulletin contact [chris-loat@shaw.ca](mailto:chris-loat@shaw.ca)



The above painting, capturing the unique charm of St. Christopher's Church, is by Elizabeth Sutherland-Cox. We gratefully acknowledge the artist's permission to reproduce this beautiful work.