

Northern Lights

180

The Journal of the
Anglican Diocese
of Yukon
Spring 2018



Christ Church Cathedral installs their
new Vestry.

Thank you for Praying

Day 1 & 16

Whitehorse: Christ Church Cathedral.

The Very Rev. Sean Murphy; The Rev. Elsa Cheeseman and Don Cheeseman; Licensed Lay Minister: Beverley Whitehouse, Gaya Tiedeman and David Robertson. .

Day 2 & 17

Fort Nelson: St. Mary Magdalene. Toad River, Alaska Highway, Mile 150-506

The Ven. Lesley Wheeler-Dame, Archdeacon of Liard & Eric Dame; The Rev. Glen Gough & Sarah Gough; Licensed Lay Ministers: Jeanie Arva, Mark Tudor and Kathleen Olson.

Day 3 & 18

Watson Lake: St. John the Baptist; Lower Post, Swift River, Telegraph Creek: St.

Aidan; Dease Lake; Glenora. Licensed Lay Minister: Tim Liverton

Day 4 & 19

Carcross, Tagish & Johnson's Crossing St. Saviour's.

Teslin: St. Philips, Ven. Sarah Usher, Len Usher and the Ministry Team

Day 5 & 20: Communities of: Carmacks & Keno.

Day 6 & 21: Atlin – St. Martin: The Rev. Vera Kirkwood; The Rev. Dorothy Odian & Dennis Odian; Licensed Lay Ministers George Holman and Cheri Malo.

Day 7 & 22: Communities of Faro and Ross River

Day 8 & 23

Haines Junction: St. Christopher's. **Beaver Creek:** St. Columba: **Alaska Highway: Mile 918-1202:** the Ministry Team

Day 9 & 24

Whitehorse: Church of the Northern Apostles.

The Ven. Sarah Usher, Len Usher. Licensed Lay Ministers Eileen Carver, Sheila Robertson, Cheri Malo & Linda Gerein.

Day 10 and 25

Mayo: St. Mary with St. Mark. Licensed Lay Ministers Charles & Valerie Maier; **Pelly Crossing:** St. James the Lord's Brother

Day 11 & 26

Dawson City: St. Paul's. **Moosehide:** St. Barnabas; **The Klondike Creeks; The Dempster Hwy.** The Ven. Laurie Munro, Archdeacon of Klondike; The Rev. Percy Henry. Licensed Lay Ministers: Mabel Henry; Shirley Pennell and Betty Davidson.

Day 12 & 27

Old Crow: St. Luke's.

The Rev. Bert Chestnut, The Rev. Marion Schafer, Esau Schafer & Lay Ministry Team

Day 13 & 28

The Ven. Sarah Usher: Executive Archdeacon; Members of the Diocesan Executive Committee; Diocesan Prayer Partner: Diocese of Fredericton.

Day 14 & 29

Patti Tetlich, Yukon Apostolate. Bishop's School of Yukon Ministries.

PWRDF Diocesan Representative: Betty Davidson

Diocesan ACW President, Blanche Buckle, and all ACW members.

Day 15 & 30

Those retired from Missionary Service:

The Rev. Canon David Pritchard.

The Rev. Don & Rev. Lee Sax.

The Rv. Canon Geoffrey & Rosalind Dixon.

The Rev. Canon David Kalles.

The Ven. John & Rev. Carol Tyrrell.

The Rev. Fred & Marcia Carson.

The Very Rev. Peter & Barbara Williams.

The Rev. Mary & Lino Battaja.

The Most Rev. Terry and Blanche Buckle.

The Rev. Martin & Ruth Carroll.

Marion Carroll, Aldene Snider, Audrey Aylard.

Day 31 and daily:

The Rt. Rev. Larry Robertson and Sheila Robertson & family.



A Message from the Bishop

At certain times of the year I have heard it said about some parts of the Yukon, "If you do not like the weather, wait 15 minutes". Sometimes, I feel like that in regard to the Diocese and to the path that I felt God had in store for Sheila and me. Plans that were made, were changed, roads took unexpected twists that changed our future and that of the Diocese.

Sheila and I were thinking about retiring in the not too distant future. It seemed the right thing to do. But when the elected person for Bishop of Caledonia was denied by the Provincial House of Bishops it made many within the Yukon ask, "Could this happen here?" There was a certain amount of fear within our Diocese. So much so that after much discussion and prayer Sheila and I decided to stay on for a while so we could try to ensure what happened in Caledonia would not happen in the Yukon. Change number one - we were not retiring. Plans had to be changed.

Then as the Executive of the Diocese began to discuss future plans it was made apparent that we needed another minister in the Whitehorse area to work with the various people who could not be reached otherwise. So again, after much prayer and discussion, it was felt that if I gave up my salary and took on a Ministry of Presence position, we could then afford and elect a Coadjutor Bishop who would take over much of the Bishop's duties leaving me free to work with the Cathedral to reach out into areas that have not been possible to date.

There would have been minimal cost to the Diocese while allowing us to increase our ministry to the Whitehorse area. All seemed well. Then we found out that having two bishops, even for a temporary period of time, would have put us into a different funding category with the Council of the North and that would negatively affect our Block Grant



Bishop Larry and Sheila Robertson

which we receive.

This we could not afford. The Executive agreed to abandon the plans even though we had made them public. It was a surprise to us that the proposed temporary change that would cost the Diocese so little, while allowing such a large increase in ministry, would affect the Council of the North Grant so much. Again the road we felt that God was leading was changed with an unexpected turn that was not foreseen.

We were still left with the need for ministry that the Executive felt God was calling us to address. I personally felt a call to be part of it. Where was God leading? What was to be done? More prayer and discussion.

This is what was finally decided on:

1. The Diocesan Executive Archdeacon, The Ven. Sarah Usher, would take over as the Priest-in-Charge of the Church of Northern Apostles from me, Bishop Larry.

2. In order to do this we would hire someone to do some of the

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The Bishop's Message

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Administrative duties that Ven. Usher currently does. This would be contract work at about the same cost as a person in the Ministry of Presence program.

3. This would enable me to dedicate specific time to develop ministry in the inner Whitehorse area through the ministry of the Cathedral.

4. This proposal still allows me the time to continue to fulfill my normal duties as Bishop.

5. This change will take place sometime in the month of March this year.

What do we learn from all of this?

1. Each of us must ensure we strengthen our own personal Spiritual life so we are sensitive to the leading of the Spirit, especially when it means changing our own preset plans.

2. It means acknowledging that our first perceptions of God's plans may not actually be God's plan.

3. We learn also that God works through the people and the situations around us that we have not taken into consideration in our plans.

4. It above all, reminds us that we must be humble enough to recognize that we can be in error and to be submissive enough to change as God reveals His will to us.

Are these the final plans? I do not know. That is why the Diocese continues to request and needs your prayers as we seek the road that God has given us to journey. I thank you for your continued prayers and support no matter where the Spirit leads.

God Bless you,
Bishop Larry Robertson

St. John the Baptist, Watson Lake

By Dianne Amann

The Christmas season is a busy month for everyone. For us in Watson lake, it means participating in the Town's Moonlight Madness evening (a chance to sell off more of our bazaar items). Hard on the heels of this event, it is time to host our annual Ladies Christmas Dinner Party, closely followed by the inter-church (Ministerial Association) prayer services.

This year the Gospel Chapel invited us to join them for their Christams Eve service. January's Week of prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated literally. Our five congregations unite, with each church taking a day to host lunch and a devotional – Monday through Friday, with a wind-down service on Friday evening. This special week is well attended. All of us enjoy socializing, don't we? In the same fashion, we have just finished celebrating Shrove Tuesday together with our annual pancake dinner. Now is the time for us to start thinking about our Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, which is held at the Log Cabin on the Lake – where all five congregations share in the responsibilities – service, music and brunch.

My advice to anyone who thinks there is nothing to do in a small town: join a church!

News from St. Paul's

The annual Christmas Eve Pageant service took place at St. Paul's on December 24. The Ecumenical Choir presented a couple of anthems and led the singing of the many other Christmas carols. The service was led by the Ven. Laurie Munro, with the sermon by Father Anthony Mariyadas of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Members of the Dawson Community Chapel also participated in the readings and prayers. A highlight was the Pageant Slide Show which had been photographed around the town in October.



Extremely cold weather and a number of other events, in particular a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Elders meeting, reduced attendance at this year's Shrove Tuesday Dinner on February 13.



**SPRING EDITION DEADLINE:
JULY 16, 2018**

Singing to End Hunger

by Valerie Maier

Early in February, Anglicans and members of other Yukon churches came together in Whitehorse to sing, envision a world without hunger, and to act together to make a difference. Hosted at the United Church, an ecumenical concert called Common Vision, brought people interested in singing together to share their talents, and raise funds for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) so that people in crisis around the world can receive emergency food assistance. In this, the 35th anniversary year of the CFGB, \$2000 was raised, which will be matched by the Canadian government through Global Affairs Canada four to one. In other words \$10 000 went forward to help hungry people worldwide.

Initiated by the Worship Committee of the United Church, the event was organized by Sheila Maissan and friends. The call went out to Churches in the immediate area for singers and musicians to create a Common Vision concert, a do it yourself fundraising event created by CFGB and Ron Klismeier, a composer of many modern hymns. The package includes his scores, tapes of the choral parts, advertising posters, clear directions on how to set up and run a concert, and videos showing the work of the CFGB. To hold a Common Vision Concert see <https://foodgrainsbank.ca/campaigns/commonvision/>

Volunteer choristers came together for two practices before the concert. The program included performances by the 'pop-up' choir, local musicians and audience participation. Barry Kitchen directed the choir and provided the piano and organ accompaniment.

Videos were shown describing the work

of the CFGB. These were introduced and explained by Stu Clark, former Senior Policy Advisor for the CFGB in Winnipeg, now living in Whitehorse.

The concert concluded with an ecumenical benediction by leaders of participating Churches. Anglican Dean of Yukon, Sean Murphy took part.

The CFGB is a partnership of 15 different Canadian Christian denominations, all of which are represented in the Yukon. They share a common vision of a world without hunger. Together they collaborate and respond to hunger through the CFGB providing emergency food assistance to needy people around the world. They also assist farmers deal with climate change by developing sustainable agricultural practices, thereby helping ensure nutritious food reaches the most vulnerable.

The Anglican Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) has been a member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank for 10 years, and has an 'equity account,' so that together these organizations can multiply their efforts to provide food assistance around the world. PWRDF encourages Anglicans raising funds for food security use this equity account, as one dollar becomes five dollars there.

The impact can be amazing. In October, 2017, PWRDF contributed \$20 ,000 from its CFGB account to a relief effort for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. It joined with other CFGB partners and the result through this collaboration almost \$1,000,000 of assistance was delivered to some 19,000 people.



The Common Vision Concert took place at the Whitehorse United Church

News From St. Mary with St. Mark

by Valerie Maier

Christmas at St. Mary with St. Mark parish in Mayo this year included two Sunday afternoons of Christmas crafting. They took place at the Curling Lounge and engaged 12-15 children who came along with a parent or grandparent to hear the Christmas Story, do a variety of crafts and share a snack.

Gingerbread crèche scenes were put together and decorated by each family.



Necklaces, Christmas tree ornaments and Christmas cookies were made as well. Messy, but good fun was enjoyed by all.

A well attended service of lessons and carols was held on Christmas Eve at the Curling Lounge. Local musicians added their talent to the service. One of the young people lead the congregation in singing "Joy to the World" accompanied by piano and cello. The service was followed with a potluck supper making for a Very Merry Christmas in Mayo.



by Valerie Maier

On September 30th, a group of friends, who called themselves the YUKON TRY-CYCLERS, four people in Mayo and one in Dawson City went the distance for refuge and hope in the annual Ride for Refuge. This annual nation-wide event allows people to set up charitable rides/ walks to raise money for their favourite charity. Over 6000 Canadians took part and raised over two million dollars.

The Yukon Try-cyclers raised over \$3000. The Yukon Try Cyclers rode/walked for the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund(PWRDF) in order to support women in Mozambique who through a credit cooperative in Pemba have a safe place to keep their savings and access low-interest loans for small businesses.

Profits are reinvested not only in their businesses, but in their families, accessing potable water, food, shelter, clothing and education. Adult women -- almost 70% of whom are illiterate -- learn to read at night school. All of this means women are empowered to become full

RIDE FOR REFUGE

LOVE, SWEAT + GEARS

partners in decision-making that affects not only their families but their communities.

It is the first time there has been a Yukon team and a ride in the territory. Linda Heasley, Dennis Heasley, Charles Maier and Valerie Maier rode their bikes in Mayo and Betty Davidson and her trusty dog, Shadow, walked in Dawson City. They were part of a much bigger effort.

Across Canada there were a total of ten PWRDF teams participating. They were five of the 52 riders taking part nation-wide. Together the teams raised a total of \$30285.09, and the Yukon team raised 10% of that total! And all this in-turn is being doubled by a donor in Toronto, getting us up to \$60,000.

Thank you to the many more people who donated to the Yukon Try cyclers, supported them, lent them bikes, or just listened to their complaints about those huge hills that had to be climbed! Together these efforts on behalf of women entrepreneurs in Mozambique will quite literally change lives -- not only of those who receive help directly through the PWRDF partnership with the credit cooperative CCM Pemba, but their families and, ultimately, their communities.



News from St. Christopher's, Haines Junction



Deacon Elsa Kolm Cheeseman, along with her husband Don, travel to Haines Junction to provide a Reserve Eucharist to the Parish of St. Christopher's on a late Sunday afternoon. The parish in turn provides a meal for them and enjoys fellowship afterwards before they make the trek back into Whitehorse. Blessings all around.



Ordination of Elsa Kolm Cheeseman

Elsa was ordained Deacon of the Church by Bishop Larry Robertson on Sunday, November 5th at Christ Church Cathedral. It was a wonderful service, attended by Elsa's family, members of the congregation and others in the community.

Left to right: Archdeacon of Liard Lesley Wheeler-Dame, Executive Archdeacon Sarah Usher, Lay Minister Beverley Whitehouse, Bishop Larry Robertson, Lay Minister Sheila Robertson, Lay Minister Eileen Carver, Lay Minister David Robertson, Deacon to be Elsa Cheeseman, The Rev. Beverly Brazier (United Church), The Rev. Dorothy Odian, and The Most Rev. Hector Vila, Bishop of Whitehorse (Catholic) - her neighbour.



Right: Elsa cuts the cake
Photo credits for Ordination and Bazaar: Cindy Henderson.



During the reception Elsa was presented with a stole crocheted by Elaine Sumner.



Don Cheeseman

Anglican Church Women's Bazaar

On Saturday, November 18, the ACW held their Christmas bazaar. A large team of helpers came together to make this annual event a great success once again. Sandwiches and refreshments, a popular yearly feature of the bazaar, were served. Helpers included Elaine Sumner, Beverley Whitehouse, Philip Merchant, Mary Merchant, Jeannie Roches, Gaya Tiedeman, Ev Tiedeman, Elsa Cheeseman, Jim Tiedeman, Don Cheeseman, Blanche Buckle, Mary Robertson, Arlene Kubica. The crowds showed up as usual, and over two thousand dollars was raised.



"Love God, Love Neighbour, The Anglican Foundation of Canada"

(Matthew 22:34-40)

Sermon by Rev. Glen Gough St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church Fort Nelson, BC

My Kindergarten students jockey for position in any line up. Often there are disagreements about who will be first in line, first in the gym, first in the computer lab, it doesn't matter what or where, because for them being 'first' is about privilege and control. Lately, during the Olympics, we've also been hearing a lot about the winners and losers, who was expected to win and didn't, who was a long-shot and miraculously won gold. However, in the first-century Jewish context reflected in Matthew's gospel, 'being first' was not the same as we view it today, especially not in the competitive sense.

To be 'first' in first century context came closer to the idea of being the first stone laid—the cornerstone, the foundation, upon which all of the other stones must rest. Consequently, the greatness of the 'love God and love your neighbor commandment' lies not in it surpassing all of the other commandments of Jewish law but, rather, in its ability to hold up all the rest. The love commandments are the foundation needed in order to fulfill all the others. It's less about beating the other students to the prize and more about helping and leading everyone to the prize.

The words of the Decalogue in Deuteronomy 6:4 begin with the declaration, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one," not because God's ego is so big that God has to get out the door first, but because God is so big that it is only on His foundation that the rest of the commands can possibly rest.

I imagine if I ask my Kindergarten-ers whether they want to be first to the bottom of a running game induced crash,

and the resulting multi-person pile up, their rush to be first might be slightly tempered.

But isn't this rush to be first to disaster what God does through Jesus' journey to the cross. Just a few chapters after today's text, Matthew's gospel records how Jesus, in love, surrenders his life to bolster us up in our weakness. These two love commandments come first in the law because it is on them that all of the rest of the laws of the Torah rest—all that God asks of us, is to express our love to Him in all things and to express that same love to all those we meet.

In our twenty-first century world, love has become a romantic emotion, but this idea of love is relatively new. The Greek language of the New Testament knows many different words for love, but only two are used in the New Testament. The first, *phileo*, refers to 'brotherly love,' or a love of respect. It is a love between equals and implies the love is two-way. (This is where the city "of brotherly love", Philadelphia gets its name). The other, *agape*, refers to a complete and selfless love and expects self-giving, with no expectation reward or even acknowledgment. Neither love reflects a romantic element, but rather, points to the relation in which one person lives and acts toward another.

The word for love that Jesus is using and quoting from the Old Testament, is *agape*, a selfless love; on the cross, Jesus acts with *agape* love. Somewhere in my past I was told or read, "The most important symbol of the Christian faith, the cross Christ died on, has two dimensions: a vertical love to God and a horizontal love towards our neighbors." Love God, Love neighbor.

At its heart, what 'agape' love really means, is simply putting 'others' first. Acting with *agape* love as our great commandment means stepping back from whatever codes or laws that dictate our

"Love God, Love Neighbour, The Anglican Foundation of Canada"

personal actions and asking first, "What does this mean for my neighbor/for God?" Or, even more potently, "Is this me giving my very self to my neighbor/God?" Because to put love of God and neighbor first means we act according to what we think is best for God and our neighbor, in such a way that our love becomes the foundation upon which every one of our actions and personal relationships is built. Love of God and love of neighbor cannot be separated from each other. Mother Teresa, I think, said it best: "It is not how much we give, but how much love we put into the giving." She wasn't talking the giving of money, she meant the giving of ourselves.

Jesus is telling us directly: reflecting selfless love is the reason for our being...love should define us. Love God. Love neighbor. As the saying goes, "This is God's great commandment, not his great suggestion."

Remember my sermon a couple of weeks ago...I said that our Christian journey isn't a straight path, but one of action and experiencing and wandering, and that journey has to be worthy of the Kingdom of God. Learning the words of loving God and our neighbour is easy. Living them is literally the work of a lifetime. It is the centerpiece of our Christian journey. And it requires dedication, re-dedication and re-re-dedication. We are human, we succeed, and we fail, we have highs and we have lows. We constantly need to acknowledge our sins and recommit and recharge.

Love God. Love neighbor.

Unfortunately, the world is a difficult place for love. At times, we see so much need for love, we get overwhelmed; or we see so much ugliness, we begin to believe love can't possibly win, so why bother trying? In the midst of this, we even see churches turned inward, serving only those inside their walls, rather than turning outward as lights to a troubled world.



This brings me to why we are recognizing the Anglican Foundation this Sunday. This foundation works on the same principles of: Love God, Love neighbour. They encourage the church to look outward as lights to this world. It is a selfless love they act out. Loving God by using financial resources to assist and benefit Christian mission across Canada. This foundation love neighbours they have never met and likely will never see. Simply put, they act out their love by helping others act out their love. Every person, church, Diocese, organization that supports the Anglican Foundation is a part of sharing that love of God and neighbour.

Let me share some of what the Anglican Foundation does. They provide grants to churches so kitchens can be upgraded in order to run meal programs for the homeless. They have given money so churches can improve facilities and become the hub of communities. They help churches and dioceses repair rectories, so ministers can focus on ministering instead of home repair. They have even kept a very loving outreach ministry such as our Comfort Quilters from being frozen in our basement with no heat! The Anglican Foundation not only supports diverse infrastructure improvements, they have supported innovative ministries all over Canada. Ministries that aim to assist at-risk youth, seniors, the homeless, reconciliation with First Nations people, and assisted individuals in accessing very expensive seminary education.

The Kids Helping Kids programs supports breakfast programs in schools, after-school care programs, helps send children to summer camps, and provides care to children with terminal illness.

"Love God, Love Neighbour, The Anglican Foundation of Canada"

Here are some big numbers:

- 100,000—dollars contributed each year by donors
- 600,000—dollars earned from legacy donations and investments
- 700,000—dollars distributed last year
- 17,000,000—dollars total funds that are being administered

How about small numbers:

- 1.5—Operating and administration expenses as a percentage of the total Funds under Administration.
- 3—the only paid employees, volunteers across Canada keep costs very low.
- 20—the number of dollars it costs to purchase a Hope Bear, with all proceeds directed to the Kids Helping Kids

program.

Here are OUR numbers:

- 5—contributors in our diocese
 - 13—parishes in our diocese
 - 2000—dollars contributed from within our diocese
 - 4000—dollars St. Mary Magdalene received for a new furnace
 - 54,000—dollars received by 6 parishes in past 2 years
 - 111,000—dollars our diocese has received in last 30 years
- Love God, Love neighbour. Remember both this Lenten season and consider supporting the Anglican Foundation as it continues to do the same.
Amen.

Three Yukon Bishops in the same place!

That doesn't happen very often!



Larry Robertson, Terry Buckle, Ron Ferris

News from Teslin & Northern Apostles



Sheila, Eileen and Alf singing at the Christmas Service at St. Philips - always a pleasure to have them come and share their gifts with the congregation



St. Philip's during Advent

During Lent at Northern Apostles, Anglican Foundation Hope Bears wait for the children to come and hear how they can help the Kids Helping Kids Fund.





Northern Lights magazine is published by the Diocese of Yukon and its goal is to inform people everywhere about the life, work and mission of the Anglican Church in the diocese and to inform the churches of Yukon about each other, thus strengthening the bonds of mutual appreciation. Opinions expressed herein are those of the writer or contributor and not necessarily those of the Diocese of Yukon.

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