

Northern Lights

181

The Journal of the
Anglican Diocese
of Yukon
Summer 2018



Prayer Shawls were blessed at Christ Church
Cathedral

L-R: Jeannie Roches, Cindy Henderson, Deacon Elsa
Cheeseman, Elaine Sumner, Dean Sean Murphy

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, 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: Mark Tudor.

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..

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

For most in the Church, summer is a time to slow down, relax, take a holiday. However, when you live and work in a Territory where tourism is the second largest industry next to mining, summer is a busy time indeed. The Church is no different in this respect. She works hard so those who come to visit may see and learn of the beautiful country the Creator has made here, but also, they might learn some of the amazing history of the Yukon Territory where the Anglican Church has played a major role in its development.

The Beginnings

For thousands of years there were only the First Nations. There were six language groups and many nations living together in the land God placed them in. For good and bad, the Church has been part of some of the earliest contacts with the First Nations. Christ Church Cathedral seeks to share that history with the tourists and inhabitants of the Whitehorse area it has offered Historical Evening Prayer twice a week in the Old Log Museum, the original Church built in 1900.

Those who attend will get a chance to worship in a similar style and with similar music of the Gold Rush era. Instead of a sermon they will learn of the amazing people who offered themselves to God's service in the Yukon. You may learn of Archdeacon Robert Macdonald, a Métis minister from the Red River Settlement, who worked among the Gwitchin people and whose ministry was held as an example around the world of how to share the Gospel in a culture different than your own. Or maybe Bishop Isaac Stringer the Bishop who ate his boots or Rev. Richard Martin who continued to run a church while being totally blind for 20 years.



Bishop Larry and Sheila Robertson

Maybe you will get a chance to visit St Paul's in Dawson City, a Church paid for partly with the Gold donated by the miners of that day. On your visit you may watch a video or have a guided tour of the church that once was the Cathedral.

Hospitality and Food

One of the marks of the people of the Yukon is hospitality. Throughout the summer you will see the Church reaching out with a welcoming hand (and sometimes a hamburger) to those who visit. There is the Fun Night of St Paul's, Dawson on Wednesday serving soup, sandwiches, and fellowship through games and friendship. Christ Church Cathedral has a Tuesday Lunch with guests BBQers cooking lots of good food. 50 to 60 people come each week. At any given day you may find someone from Germany, the Philippines or the guy down the street, all eating together and enjoying each other's

Cont'd on p.4

company.

Throughout the Diocese you will see the church present at the many festivals such as St. Martin's in Atlin, or St Christopher at the Jazz Festival in Haines Junction. St Christopher's has the added attraction of having an Art Gallery in the basement with art from local artist for sale.

Physical Help

Four Churches (Dawson City, Atlin, Watson Lake and Haines Junction) have Thrift Stores offering clothes and other necessities at very reasonable prices and free in emergencies. This ministry has been a Godsend to many a stranded

traveler stuck on the road with no money in their pockets.

Oh yes, we also offer worship and spiritual care to all who come, to all who ask. Whether it be Vacation Bible Schools, Bible Studies or Sunday Worship all are welcome. No one is turned away. The Anglican Church of the Diocese of Yukon seeks to share God's love and the wonderful gift of His Son to all who come in contact with the church. It matters not whether they have lived here for generations or if they arrived here this afternoon. God's is love available to all.

Summer is a busy time; come and join us then, or in any other season.

National Indigenous Day

On June 21 of each year Canada celebrates National Indigenous Day. It is a day of mixed feelings for many and certainly for those in the Anglican Church of Canada and the Diocese of Yukon. On one hand we give thanks for the contribution of Indigenous Peoples to Canada's History, to its multicultural society and to the building of the land we now know as Yukon Territory. On the other hand we recognize the hurt and the pain inflicted on many Indigenous People by those who came from over the waters to settle here. We recognize that this hurt and pain still exists in the lives of many. So on this day we strive for reconciliation in whatever way we can. Throughout the Yukon, and presumably the rest of the Canadian Anglican Church, prayers of repentance and reconciliation were offered up with the wish that healing would take place in our land and in our Church.

As a Church we have much to repent for. There is no doubt of this. But also as a Church we can strive together to seek healing and reconciliation between all people in the Church. Attached is part of my message that I gave to celebrate National Indigenous Day at Christ Church Cathedral.

“My whole ministry has been among Indigenous People. It has been an honour to serve in the north and an honour to sit under the ministry of many Indigenous Ministers and Elders. I can only say my life has been enriched for being here, and I deeply regret any hurt I might have unknowingly inflicted on anyone as I sought to share God's amazing love with the amazing people of the north.”

News from Christ Church Cathedral

ACW Mother's Day Tea in Hellaby Hall



Revised Alpha Course at Cathedral

One of the two groups we had for the Alpha Course put on at the Cathedral January 24 to April 4. About 20 people in all attended. The course, which has been recently revised, is a powerful tool for helping people come to personal faith in Christ and for existing Christians to grow in their faith, too. Each session went from 7 -9 pm and the format included coffee, desserts and fellowship, DVD presentation and group discussion, with music, prayer and a weekly “Alpha joke” mixed in. It was overall a very encouraging time. There was also a Weekend Retreat part way through the course to learn about and be renewed in the Holy Spirit, which went well, too..



**SPRING EDITION DEADLINE:
NOVEMBER 1, 2018**

Diocese of Yukon goes to Belize

Bishop Larry went to Belize in February for a month of work in the parish of St Peter's Church in Orange Walk. Two weeks later, Ven. Lesley Wheeler-Dame from Fort Nelson, Rev. Bert Chestnut from Old Crow, lay minister Mark Tudor from Fort Nelson, and lay minister Betty Davidson from Dawson City, followed him to Orange Walk where a week of teaching Christian music and crafts to 250 children occurred. Donations were given from St. Mary Magdalene (Fort Nelson), Church of the Northern Apostles, and individual donations. This was followed by a week of relaxation in Placencia. Here are some memories from those of us who were blessed to go.

Bert says: We were treated well, with respect and most definitely fed well. I think we were more blessed than the folks we went to serve. There is nothing more beautiful than the sound of children's singing voices. Each day was filled with three sessions of music with different standards (or Grades) and sometimes crafts. We were a part of God's creation, looking at Mayan ruins at Lamanai, with time to enjoy sand, sea and surf.

Lesley says: I am blessed beyond measure. My life is made richer by participating in this venture. The drive to Orange Walk Town and seeing the

poverty and hearing some of the history of the country is forever planted in my mind. The joy on the faces of the children (during our singing time) was unmistakable. The highlights? The little child who put his arms around me and said "thank you, I love you"; seeing and learning from the Garafuna dancers; seeing the beauty of the landscape mixed in with the garbage floating to the shore.

Betty says: So many highlights - watching the sun set over the water, climbing Mayan ruins, listening to the sound of children singing and praising God and loving the music (They only had to hear a song once or twice to learn it), having young people come into the church on their own to sit beside me for morning prayer, wandering through mangroves, seeing shrimp, and howler monkeys and iguanas and blue herons, eating special food like black soup and chirmoli, watching a political parade, watching the children laugh at Raymond the Raven. God has blessed us all so greatly, all of us being able to give to help the school with meals for the children.

Mark - (was unable to share But...) He led the actions during the singing, helped with the crafts, was fascinated by the Garifuna dancers, enjoyed swimming in the harbour. Ask him, he has lots to tell you.



An Assembly



Beginning in Belize



Group with Romirez & Principal



Larry, Francelia Cancun, Bert, Betty



Donations from St Mary Magdalene



Drama, Lesley, Betty, Bert



Making Sheep



Larry works his puppet magic.



Music time.



A High Temple.



Lina Quinta library



The playground



Creating an altar cloth.



Another assembly



Diocese of Yukon 41st Synod - Alvina's Reflections

This was my first time attending a Synod, and I was a bit apprehensive about so many attendees hearing different things and trying to do what God has intended. When I received the information packet, I discovered the theme of this Synod was "Love In All Things" and I thought "wow" what a good directive. Amazing how God works within us to achieve good, love and to think of others before ourselves.

We drove up Thursday and had the next day to orientate ourselves. Nice time for me to check things out as I used to live in Whitehorse many years ago. The commencement of the meeting was at 6pm on Friday with a service and the Bishop reading out his "Bishop's Charge". The charge was "All things in love." That evening was the first time I had met some of the people attending and was able to catch up with those I already knew.

We went back to the hotel to rest up for the next day, as I was looking at the agenda and it looked full. We met up at 8 am for breakfast and the beginning of the business meeting. Before the meetings started we always commenced with prayer. How re-assuring for me. There was the appointment of the Clerical and Lay Secretaries and away we went. Rules were presented as to how we would proceed. Then introductions of all the attendees.

Finances were reported with an audit statement and we were presented with an overview by a representative of the Diocesan accounting firm. He understood that we were not all bookkeepers so his report was presented in a way that we could all understand.

Lunch and during lunch there was singing and music being played. This was calming and peaceful. Prayer and then we proceeded with the afternoon

session. What impressed me was how respectful everyone was to each other. Mind you, the theme for synod was "love" and that was most evident.

Reports had been read before the meeting and they were acknowledged. All notices of Motions from the Canons Committee were passed, after discussion, and now we move forward doing God's work. We broke off into groups to elect representatives to be on Diocesan Executive. We started with prayer. People who wished to participate at that level put their names forward. Groups were divided north, south, and Whitehorse so that the whole Diocese would be represented. Then we gathered back in the large group to vote for representatives to attend General and Provincial Synod from those elected for Executive. It was clear God was with us the whole time as everyone was respectful and loving to each other. I was in awe of the love, consideration and respect that everyone showed each other.

I feel that this meeting was a lesson in people putting God and others ahead of their own wishes and desires and going in the direction that God had in leading us. A true lesson in **Discipleship!** As I write this report to you all, I wish to "thank you" for allowing me to attend to represent all of you. I still get a feeling of warmth in my heart that God is surely leading the way! God Bless Us All.

Respectfully submitted,

Alvina Berggren

Sacred Circle in Prince George



The delegation which went to Sacred Circle in Prince George, BC. From left to right are: Lorraine Netro; Bessie Cooley; Bishop Larry Robertson; Bishop Mark McDonald; Ingrid Johnson and Terry Simon.

Braeburn Camp's 50th Anniversary Celebrates many winners!

Going to camp is fun and surprising on many levels. There's room for flexibility and creativity! Many years ago someone noticed special skills and talents of campers and decided to have an award evening near the end of the week. Carl Ditmar cut slices of trees, the staff would gaily colour one for each camper based on the individual's personality. Such began the famous Braeburn "cookies."

At our anniversary weekend we celebrated our many traditions including the awards. Participants were recognized for talents such as, "Best song bird, Most Improved canoer-er," and about 20 others categories including the award for the bravest polar dipper! A polar dip is a refreshing plunge into Jobo Lake at 7AM. At camp we do this every morning. Yes, Bishop Larry did it! For this he

unanimously won the Best Polar Dip, Stick Award!

Submitted by Stella Martin



News from Fort Nelson

What's Happening in the Parish of St. Mary Magdalene

We have been celebrating a lot of good news here in the parish in Fort Nelson, BC.

We were blessed to have been able to have two lay delegates and two clergy delegates attend the Diocesan Synod in May in Whitehorse. Alvina's reflection is included elsewhere. Sending two delegates was a big celebration for the parish as we generally have only been able to send one delegate based on our Easter attendance. It is wonderful to know that every parish in our Diocese will now have the opportunity to send two delegates to every synod.

On Pentecost Sunday we had a baptism. 3 year old Morgan was welcomed into the family of God. Morgan often entertains us with "liturgical" dance, is a huge helper with the offering and with putting out the candles. He also loves it when Lesley comes to his house and plays cars.

At the end of May we held a **FUN**draiser evening; Ukrainian supper and loonie auction. Although this is a fundraiser, the primary focus is the fun that we have at these events. The evening is never advertised and is by invitation. This time groups of people got together on two separate evenings beforehand to make perogies and cabbage rolls. Members of the parish were joined by others and a good time was had by all of us, just sharing and laughing together. At the auction, the auctioneer always gets some exercise and there is delight for young and old alike in trying different numeric strategies to win the coveted item being "auctioned" off.

Over this past year two of our children joined the United Church Sunday

school. *We need to find a solution for Sunday School, so if anybody has any great ideas please give me a call.* Katarina and Markus had a good time and we were all offered the opportunity to join the Hillcrest congregation for presentations and performances.

On the first Sunday in June, the congregation returned to the Fort Nelson Heritage Museum church for summer services. We started this last year to offer services for tourists at the campground. We generally have one or more tourists each week. We have a couple BBQs during the summer that are open to the community. We finish this off at the end of August with a service which includes the blessing of backpacks and briefcases as students and teachers head back to school.

This year when we make that change on Labour Day weekend it will be a very big adjustment. God willing, Bishop Larry and Sheila Robertson will be in attendance. We will start the service at the museum church and will then process to our brand new location. We will be renting space in one of the strip malls in downtown Fort Nelson. This will be a very new experience for this congregation. Many of us are very excited and see so much possibility and potential for being more visible in the community, for reaching out in ministry and for having our own space. At the same time many of us are scared. It is a new idea for us here (although not new idea in the Anglican Church of Canada). It will require a different kind of commitment to a worship and program space, to each other and to building God's kingdom.

The Comfort Quilters group has sent out 38 quilts so far in 2018. In

June, Lesley went east for a course in Christian Mystics and Spiritual Practices. She took time out to visit her mom and sister for their mom's 96th birthday. The quilting group sent along a quilt for Rev. Peg Wheeler. Peg did not disappoint in gratitude by sharing her signature statement — I'm blessed beyond measure. The quilt in the photo was sent with the group that went to Belize.

We definitely know that we are blessed beyond measure and that God is good, all the time.

Blessings;

Lesley+

**The Ven. Lesley Wheeler-Dame
Archdeacon of Liard**



High School Grads from the Parish of St. Mary Magdalene



Kallye Vatcher-Cooke at the museum church



Kallye in cap and gown



Kiaya Gairdner with Grampa Peter Wood



Kiaya in her grad dress

Baptism at Northern Apostles

Adelynn Faith Berntsen, with Parents Nicole and Darryl
and Big Sister Emily



Northern Apostle's June Picnic

Northern Apostles picnic in June at Wolf Creek Campground. This was the same weekend that Fisheries was there to release their fry so we entertained many with our music trio! We even had a few visitors join our service!

Northern Apostles enjoyed good food and good company at the picnic



Yard Sale & Silent Auction at St. Paul's





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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