

Northern Lights

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The Journal of the
Anglican Diocese
of Yukon
Summer 2014



**Ken Snider's Headstone Ceremony
at the YOOP Cemetary in Dawson on July 26, 2014**

Photo by Dan Davidson

Thank you for Praying

Day 1 & 16

Whitehorse: Christ Church Cathedral.

The Very Rev. Sean Murphy; The Rev. Canon David Pritchard; Rev. Martin Carroll, Ruth Carroll & family; Licensed Lay Ministers: Beverley Whitehouse, Gaya Tiedeman, David Robertson

Day 2 & 17

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

Licensed Lay Minister in Charge - Ida Reid; The Rev. Don Thompson; Licensed Lay Ministers Terry Reid, Glen Gough, Jeanie Arva & 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 in Charge - Ford Hewlett, Aqiu Zhang; Licensed Lay Minister: Tim Liverton

Day 4 & 19

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

The Rev. Canon David Pritchard; Teslin: St. Philips. The Rev. 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. Licensed Lay Minister: George Holman.

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: Deacon Lynn de Brabandere and the Ministry Team

Day 9 & 24

Whitehorse: Church of the Northern Apostles.

The Rev. Rob Langmaid, The Most Rev. Terry Buckle, Blanche Buckle, The Rev. Sarah Usher, Len Usher. Licensed Lay Ministers Eileen Carver, Monica Langmaid, Shelia Robertson

Day 10 and 25

Mayo: St. Mary with St. Mark. Pelly Crossing: St. James the Lord's Brother: the Lay Ministry Team;

Day 11 & 26

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

Day 12 & 27

Old Crow: St. Luke's.

The Rev. Laurie Munro, The Rev. Marion Schafer, Esau Schafer & Lay Ministry Team

Day 13 & 28

The Rev. Sarah Usher: Diocesan Administrative Officer; 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. Dorothy Thorpe.

The Rev. Bruce Aylard & Audrey Aylard.

The Rev. Don Sax & Deacon Lee Sax.

Canon Geoffrey & Rosalind Dixon.

The Rev. Canon David Kalles.

The Ven. John & Deacon 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;

Marion Carroll, Aldene Snider.

Day 31 and daily:

The Rt. Rev. Larry and Sheila Robertson Pray for the Shaping Our Future Committee under the leadership of Dean Sean Murphy as the members plan for the future of our Diocese.



A Message from the Bishop



Greetings. In this summer season we enjoyed the sun shining upon us much longer than our brothers and sisters south of us. May this sunshine remind us of God's love, that shines on us eternally.

This past year I have seen one of my sisters pass away, I rejoiced at the birth of twins in one of our Clergy family and I have had the joy at presiding at the ordination of a Deacon in our diocese. What this teaches me is that life goes on and that God is there throughout. I have learned to seek God's comfort in the hard times, to give him thanks and praise for the good times, and to seek his guidance daily, knowing that He who makes the sun to shine and the rain to fall watches over me in love and will guide my footsteps into the future.

Summer is here and although some of us look forward to a rest and holiday, many of us are entering into the busiest time of the year. This is especially true for those involved in the Tourist Industry, which I believe is our largest employer. Many people have to make 80% of their yearly income in about 4 months. This means going long hours each day for 7 days a week.

As Bishop, although I realize the necessity of this, I am concerned about how those long hours will affect family and spiritual life. I would urge all those involved to plan family and spiritual time into their schedules or it may not get done. One of the members of Christ Church Cathedral who cannot come to church on Sunday mornings, attends during the Evening Prayer service provided by the Cathedral during the week.

The summer is also a time for the Churches to reach out to the many visitors as well as the local Yukoners. Dawson City finished a successful Vacation Bible School in June and Christ Church Cathedral did the same at the end of July. There are various Christian Camps that offer a faith filled camping experience for all ages. I was the Chaplain at Braeburn Camp for the week beginning July 13 -16.

There were Historical Evening Prayers at the Cathedral. These services offer worship for all and an opportunity to examine the life of one of the early pioneers of the Yukon Church.

For those of you who had a holiday and rest I say may the Lord bless you in it. To the rest of us I pray you discipline yourself and make time for family and prayers.

May the Lord bless you and yours.

Bishop Larry Robertson.

The Diocese in Brief from Top to Bottom

Old Crow

Rev. Marion Schafer, with the ministry team, care for St. Luke's under Rev. Laurie Munro's oversight. This parish is still seeking God's will in regard to a new Church building as they have not been able to use the present one for several years. They prepared for a major **Gwitch'in gathering** which **Rev. Munro, Bishop Larry Robertson** and **Bishop Mark MacDonald** of the **Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples** attended.

Dawson City

Rev. Laurie Munro travelled from there to **Moosehide**, where a local gathering of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in meet every 2 years. A service is occurred on the traditional grounds of **St. Barnabas** parish to mark the unity of the Anglican Church and the local First Nations people. In late July the **Parish of St. Paul's, Dawson City**, held a Vacation Bible School for the children of the community. During the Dawson Music Festival in the Summer it has become a tradition to use this historic church for musical workshops using the musical

groups from the festival, an event looked forward to.

Mayo

This parish with no priest or lay ministers continues to hold services led by a lay member of the parish. The rectory is in serious need of a new furnace. It is hoped that when the finances are raised to install one, we would put a person there from our Ministry of Presence program, hopefully sometime in 2015.

Whitehorse Area

The Rev. Martin Carroll, although retired, continues to minister in **Whitehorse Correctional Institute**, where he takes services, makes contact with the inmates sharing with them the love of Jesus. **The Rev. Mary Battaja** also continues to work with the Council for Yukon First Nations as their chaplain and also in Mayo when she is there. Retired **Archbishop Terry Buckle** leads **Street Hope** as it reaches out to the inner city of Whitehorse.

Christ Church Cathedral

The Members of the Cathedral have been working hard on the grounds making it a beautiful witness to the community around it. The **Historical Evening Prayer Services** have started twice weekly in the **Old Log Church Museum** telling the story of the Anglican Church in the Yukon in a context of worship. At the end of July a **Vacation Bible School** was held with the help of **Betty Davidson** of Dawson City.



Bishop Larry taught crafts at the VBS in the Richard Martin Memorial Chapel in Dawson City.

The Diocese in Brief from Top to Bottom

Parish of Northern Apostles

The **Rev. Rob Langmaid** and his wife **Monica** are adjusting to a changed life with twins **Bobby** and **Toby**. They are now in the new rectory, complete with the required paved parking lot. During this summer they were reaching out to the parishioners with a weekly **BBQ** and **Holy Communion**.

Haines Junction

Lynn De Brabandere (Ministry of Presence) was ordained a Deacon in the spring at **St. Christopher's** and she and the parish have been busy renovating and making the Church building available to all with a lift reaching making both floors available to wheelchairs and other handicapped persons. The community **Art Gallery**, featuring local artists only is now open in the basement for the summer.

Carcross

The historic **Parish of St. Saviour's** building was re-stained and re-beautified. The **Rev. Canon David Pritchard** reached out to the many tourists who came during the summer with the message of the Gospel. This parish was started by Bishop William Bompas, our first bishop, who is buried in the local gravesite. This site was cleaned up and a new fence around the grave was constructed.

Teslin

Rev. Sarah Usher is taking a well deserved sabbatical and while she is away **Bishop Larry** is taking services at St. Philips.

Atlin

Rev. Dorothy Odian and **Rev. Vera Kirkwood** are busy with the many tourists. This non-stipendiary team are mother and daughter. The parish thrift store is busy this time of the year and once during the summer the street is blocked off to traffic and tables are set up and some used by local artists. A community sale happens under the shining sun of our Creator.

Watson Lake

We rejoice with **Ford Hewlett** (Ministry of Presence) with the full recovery of his wife **Aqiu** after being away for several months at his daughters for medical reasons. Aqiu will be returning by the end of July.

Ft. Nelson

Ida and **Terry Reid** will be returning after the summer for a third year (Ministry of Presence) to **St. Mary Magdalene**. In the meantime, the ministry team of **Rev. Don Thompson** and the **Lay Ministers** will take services and oversee the pastoral care of the parish.

Shaping Our Future Committee

Under the leadership of our **Dean Sean Murphy** this small committee has been task with the job of seeking God's will for the future of the Diocese. Despite our best efforts we are still going over budget (not much, but some). Even more importantly, the committee is seeking how best to minister to the people of the diocese. Please pray for them as their task is great.

Summer Ministry in Carcross

by Rev. Canon David Pritchard

The quiet, sleepy little town of Carcross, 75 km south of Whitehorse, has really come to life the last two years. I have witnessed this first hand over ten days in early July. With the help of a friend we managed to paint and stain the entire inside of St. Saviour's. During these visits I was constantly 'interrupted' by some of the tourists visiting Carcross

Tourism in the Yukon is big business and especially in Carcross. Every summer, local business people wonder how many tourists will arrive in their campers and RVs or by plane to experience what some call the 'last frontier'! Carcross receives its fair share of these travelers.

But Carcross benefits from something else – the many tourists from all over the world who take one of the cruise ships up the Inside Passage on the Pacific Ocean to the port of Skagway, USA, just a little more than 100 km south of Carcross. These travelers arrive via the historic White Pass and Yukon rail line, the cruise ship buses, one of the smaller bus companies operating out of Skagway, or often in rental vehicles. For many it is just a day trip into Carcross and then back to the ships. For others it is on to Whitehorse and places like Dawson City, Fairbanks, Denali and Anchorage.

Over the past few years the Carcross community has worked hard to make the town a place where the travelers would want to stop. Local businesses, Yukon Tourism and particularly the Carcross/Tagish First Nation have spent considerable money in making the community more attractive to the tourists.

In the summer of 2013 the Carcross/Tagish First Nation opened and rented out the six new buildings which are right in front of St. Saviours. One of the buildings is for the Yukon Tourism

Information Centre. These new retail outlets along with the historic Matthew Watson General Store, the famous Caribou Hotel (still being renovated) and a number of other tourist attractions make Carcross a great place to visit. A couple of years ago there was only one place to eat, now there are six or seven with a great variety of food choices.

And the historic St. Saviours Anglican Church is right in the heart of this development. Built in 1904 by Bishop Bompas across the Nares River, and then moved to its present site in 1916, it receives its fair share of visitors. Although I am only in Carcross two Sundays a month for services, a key is kept in the Tourist Information Centre, fifty meters or so from the church, which allows people easy access.

Many interesting things happen. Let me share but two. A couple of years ago I arrived at the church for a Sunday service to find a note on the door. It read, "We stole some of your wood. We are sorry but we have left you \$10.00 in the hope you will forgive us. Signed the four travelers."

Recently a couple from Richmond, Virginia, came into the church while I was painting. They asked me to pray for them, for their safety on their journey. When I finished they asked if they could pray for me. They "laid hands on me" and prayed over me for my ministry.

We at St. Saviour's are also trying to make the church a place that the travelers would want to visit. We have a display that was designed for the 100th anniversary on August 8, 2004 that tells the history of the church over the years. Later this summer a 'rogues gallery' will be in place of all the clergy who served in the parish right back to the time of Bishop Bompas.

Thanks to well known Yukon photographer, Wayne Towriss, we have a large quantity of glossy cards with a winter scene of the church on it. These

are popular with our visitors and they often leave a donation. People have been generous with their donations. Many sign our guest book and leave wonderful comments.

It is exciting for the church to be part of a community that prides itself on welcoming the visitors to this historic Yukon town.



*Photos: clockwise from top left:
* Saint Savior's in Carcross
* Welcome to Carcross
* part of the new Carcross Commons
* Stained glass window
* Canon David Pritchard*

News from St. Paul's



**Captions by Rev. Laurie Munro
&
Dan Davidson**

St. Paul's Children's Choir has been a joy to behold as the children have helped lead the Sunday worship once each month through the winter and spring. Following the last Children's Sunday, a picnic spread behind the Commissioner's Residence gave a time for fellowship with members of our own congregation as well as guests from our neighbouring churches. Paper airplanes and Golf Toss added to the fun!



What could be more glorious than a beautiful Easter morning? A beautiful Easter morning where friends gather high on a bluff to welcome the early day and worship the Lord. Easter morning at 7:30, Crocus Bluff in Dawson was the site of a gathering of people from various denominations. As we looked out over the mountains and the river, and saw the sun's rays climbing over the horizon, we read the scriptures and sang God's praise, then trooped back to Shirley Pennell's place for Eggs Benny and fellowship! The Hän Singers lent their voices to the Easter service.

The annual Canada Day Sourdough Pancake Breakfast featuring Aldene Snider's Famous Sourdough Pancakes was once again a Dawson success. Volunteers and diners all enjoyed the food and fellowship that gave a rousing start to our national holiday.



With stories, singing, games, crafts, and amazing snacks, Dawson children learned about the treasures of God's Word and faith in Jesus during SonTreasure Island Vacation Bible School this June. It's hard to decide who had more fun – the children or the leaders!



**Photos by Dan Davidson
except Sunrise Service
by Helen Dewell**



Vicki Roberts, a stalwart member of our Altar Guild, serves our community in other ways. Here, she is seen with Commissioner Doug Phillips, receiving a Public Service Award during the annual Commissioner's Tea on June 7.

News from the Church of the Northern Apostles

Adventures of a Northern Ministry Family

This is what we hope will be the first of many instalments in a series highlighting the joys and challenges of Ministry in the north from a family perspective. This series will focus on the Langmaid family at the Church of the Northern Apostles, Whitehorse.

For this segment, we'll begin with introductions. The father of the family is Rob, the Priest-in-Charge at the Church of the Northern Apostles. He also is involved in a variety of relationship building outreach efforts, including being the head coach for Wrestling Yukon. Within the family he does a lot of cooking and helps with diaper changes and other tasks around the house.

The mother of the family is Monica, she is a very gifted musician and administrator with a background in the non-profit sector. Currently, she has had to take a step back from much of her active ministry to focus on taking care of the children.

The children, the twins, are Robert Joseph Gerald (Bobby) and Tobias William Leopold (Toby) who were born March 11, 2014. They require much time and attention at the moment.

However, if they were asked how they contribute to the ministry they would probably say "We're just little, so our job is to be cute, which makes people come up to Mama and Abba and ask lots of questions." They have greatly contributed to the family's effort to build relational ministry with in the parish and wider community.

We hope you have enjoyed this introduction. Until next time...

Blessings,

The Langmaid Family

Youth Ministry in the Diocese of Yukon

By The Rev. Rob Langmaid

At present within the Diocese of Yukon, there are many different expressions of youth ministry. In some places, our parishes run traditional youth groups. In other places, there is a community, multi-church approach to youth ministry. Still, in other parishes, youth ministry takes the form of youth choirs. These are all signs of life and hope for the future of the diocese.

Yet, in the midst of all these positive signs, there is also a recognition that there are many challenges to youth ministry in the north. A key challenge is the sense of isolation that's often felt. Many of our parishes have five or fewer youth, making it hard for them to feel that they belong to something bigger. This, combined with the great distances between many of our communities, makes it hard to get groups together.

The reality is, it is more than an 18 hour drive from one end of the diocese to the other. On top of that, there is still an additional flight to get to Old Crow, which doesn't have road access. In addition, there are not many public transportation options. All of this combines to make diocese-wide youth gatherings difficult. In spite of the challenges, when we look ahead to 2015, we have plans for two youth gatherings: one in the northern part of the diocese and one in the southern part. It is hoped that these gatherings will help our youth recognize that life in the church reaches beyond their immediate parish and small group of friends.

Blessings.

News from Old Crow



Bishop Mark MacDonald was a welcome guest at the biennial Gwich'in Gathering in Old Crow this July. His message of unity and hope gave encouragement to the communities.



The Vuntut Gwich'in Dancers perform at the ceremony.

Deacon Marion Shafer and the National Indigenous Bishop for Canada, the Right Reverend Mark MacDonald join in the blessing of the Gwich'in Flag, before it begins its journey to Washington, D.C.



**Captions and Photo
by Rev. Laurie Munro**

Events at Christ Church Cathedral

Photos and captions by Cozmo Malzarby, except as noted



David & Mary Robertson cutting their Anniversary cakes at the Cathedral, 27 Apr 2014.



The annual Garage Sale at Christ Church Cathedral, 28 Jun 2014.



Happy 79th Birthday! The Rev. Canon David Arthur Pritchard, B.Ed., M.Div. is presented with his birthday cake at the annual SETS Tuesday summer lunchtime BBQ, 15 July 2014, in Hellaby Hall. This will be his last Birthday in Yukon, with his upcoming retirement and move to Swaziland this fall. (Photo Credit: Sandy Peacock)



Dwayne Tiedeman is seen cooking at the Cathedral BBQ Sunday, 22 Jun 2014.



The Rev. Canon David Arthur Pritchard is slaving over the BBQ during the SETS Tuesday lunchtime BBQ's, 15 July 2014.

Events at Christ Church Cathedral



Sprucing up the Gardens

By Pat Ellis

Bishop Stringer Park's Gardens in Whitehorse got a makeover this summer under the leadership of the Anglican Church Women (ACW) and with an appreciated donation by the same organization.

Mulch, marble rock chips, stepping stones and perennial plants were purchased. Hard work and expertise was also provided to the project by the Challenge Gardening Program, directed by Ashley Fraser and others.

Dean Sean Murphy and Cozmo Malzarby did a lot of gardening as well, energetically trimming the hedge, planting new shrubs and notably clearing the back entrance (Give it 5 stars !!)

An early parish work bee also helped improve the general appearance of the Gardens. With one of the best lawns in town, with Christ Church Cathedral and the Old Log Church and Rectory as the prime setting, it is a serene center of Whitehorse.



Messy Church, Yukon Style –
craft session in Hellaby Hall, 13
Apr 2014.

Events at Christ Church Cathedral



Dean Sean Murphy presenting the Baptismal candle, at the Baptism of Mason Marcuson in the Cathedral, 6 July 2014. With Mason are his father, Mike Marcuson, mother Catrina Russell and grandmother Karen Russell.



Dean Sean Murphy with Drs. Jack and Grace Tuls, who visited Christ Church Cathedral in July. The Tuls head an organization called Remote Area Ministries, committed to teaching and equipping the body of Christ through Kingdom Training Centers in different parts of the world. Photo submitted.



Dean Sean Murphy presenting Lay Minister Gaya Tiedeman. with her Lay Ministry renewal certificate, 29 Jun 2014



Vestry Retreat at the Cathedral – planning & brainstorming session, 3 May 2014.



Dean Sean Murphy presenting Naomi Duru with her Server's Cross, alongside Lay Minister/Head Server David Robertson, 29 June 2014



Whitehorse Strings Ensemble spring concert in Christ Church Cathedral, 27 April 2014.

Happy Swazi children thanks to the late Archdeacon Ken Snider

By Canon David Pritchard

I consider it a great honor to have known Ken Snider. I knew him from the time he and his family moved from Inuvik in 1978 to Whitehorse to become the Dean at Christ Church Cathedral. I remember that well because I spent many evenings in the summer painting the rectory at the corner of 4th Avenue and Lambert Street.

My favorite story about Ken is the time I made the ‘mistake’ of golfing with Ken and the late Rev. Wilf Brown at the Annie Lake Golf and Country Club. The course was built during the construction of the Alaska Highway, possibly as an “R and R” spot for those working on the highway. No clubhouse, a pole with a box and a lock to put your green fees and wild flower fairways and gopher holes and sand greens. We didn’t have too many golf balls and every time one went down a gopher hole it had to be retrieved. More often than not, we simply pushed the ball farther down the hole. And for the entire nine holes Ken and Wilf entertained me with stories of their ministry in the north that spanned many years.

He was not only a great storyteller but he had an incredible mind for the history of the Yukon and even the MacKenzie Delta. And it wasn’t limited to the history of the church. Get him started and a way he would go, and we listened and listened. Sadly, with his passing, most of that is all lost because as far as I know it never got written down.

When we learned of his terminal illness, I remember Rev. Sarah Usher,

our Diocesan Administrator telling me that she had had a phone call from Ken telling her that I could have as many Arch books for children as I wanted from his little ‘Christian book store’ in the Diocesan Office.

Prior to his death I travelled up to Dawson City to see him for the last time. He died the day before I left Whitehorse for Swaziland for a four month visit. During that visit he made a point of telling his daughter, Grace, that there were more Arch Books in the house and I should have them.

In the end I took 111 to Swaziland with me and they disappeared like ‘hot cakes’! Some went to the children in the Sunday School class at the Anglican Church on the campus of the University of Swaziland where my family and I worshipped for ten years. Some went to each of the children in the Swaziland Educational Trust Society, a local non-profit charity that raises money to pay the school fees for Swazi children who otherwise would not get an education and the remainder to the children of relatives and friends. In all cases these were special moments for the kids, having books to read is highly unlikely for most Swazi kids.

Ken will be missed but not forgotten. Rest in peace, my friend and brother priest.





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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