

Northern Lights

175

The Journal of the
Anglican Diocese
of Yukon
Summer/Fall 2016



**Mayo Church Picnic celebrates visit of
Toronto Youth Group**

Thank you for Praying

Day 1 & 16

Whitehorse: Christ Church Cathedral.

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

Day 2 & 17

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

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.

Testlin: St. Philips, Venerable 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:** The Rev. Lynn de Brabandere and the Ministry Team

Day 9 & 24

Whitehorse: Church of the Northern Apostles.

The Rt. Rev. Larry Robertson, Ven. Sarah Usher, Len Usher. Licensed Lay Ministers Eileen Carver and 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 Rev. Laurie Munro, 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 Rev. Sarah Usher: Acting 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. Dorothy Thorpe.

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



Dear Friends:

Greetings from the land where summer seems like an endless day and this summer it also seemed like endless busyness. May the Lord of this endless day bless you and those whom you love.

Spring and Summer have been the busiest I have had in many years. It has been a blessed time, but very full. In the Spring, we had a Mission Team from Church of the Redeemer, in Toronto, come to the Yukon. A group of 10 teens and leaders came up to learn about First Nations' Government and to help the Church where they could. They landed in Whitehorse and over-nighted in our home. Every bed and much of the floor was filled. After a service at Church of Northern Apostles, they travelled with me to Dawson City. There they toured around and ended with a service on top of the Dome overlooking Dawson.

From Dawson they travelled to Mayo where they worked with the First Nation Government and around the Church for five days and a big thank you to Charles and Valerie Maier for their planning and hospitality.

They then came back and spent another night at our house and finally were back to Toronto. More will be said elsewhere about this trip.

A couple weeks later, I travelled with four other delegates from the Yukon

to Toronto to the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. I want to thank our delegates, Ven. Sarah Usher, Rev. Dorothy Odian, Mrs. Betty Davidson and Ms. Katina Vatcher, and to say that I am proud of how they conducted themselves in some very difficult discussions. They were both professional and caring in their dealings and represented the Diocese well.

Shortly after that there were two weeks of Vacation Bible School at Christ Church Cathedral in Whitehorse with Dean Sean Murphy and St. Paul's Anglican Church in Dawson City with Rev Laurie Munro. I want to especially thank Mrs. Betty Davidson for organizing and participating in both VBS sessions. We had about 50 children that attended the two events.

In between all this I attended the 25th anniversary of the building of the current St. Christopher's Anglican Church in Haines Junction with Rev. Lynn De Brabandere. This building has just been upgraded with a new kitchen and an elevator for the handicapped. This busy parish has a food program and a summer art gallery displaying local artists.

We welcome the Rev. Bert Chestnut to our diocesan family. Rev. Chestnut comes to us as a volunteer in the Ministry of Presence program. He visited St. Philip's, Teslin, with Ven. Sarah Usher, and St. Saviour's, Carcross, and assisted at the Whitehorse VBS before flying in to Old Crow to become the Priest-in-Charge of St. Luke's Church. He was quickly welcomed with a visit to the Vuntut Gwitchin General Assembly and a service comprised of baptism, confirmation and holy communion. Coming from Halifax, he is adjusting well to this small community.

We said goodbye to Rev. Rob and

Monica Langmaid as they moved to the Diocese of Fredericton and wish them well in their new ministry. As Bishop I have taken over the care of the Church of Northern Apostles. This will allow for another minister, Rev. Lesley Wheeler-Dame, to move to St. Mary Magdalene, Fort Nelson, in September.

In all the busyness I see God moving and touching the lives of adults and children as they seek to learn of His amazing love and to follow our Lord Jesus Christ. I thank you for your prayers and other support over the past year and pray that God's richest blessing be with you.



Monica and Rob Langmaid with their boys, outside St. Luke's Parish Hall in Quispamsis, New Brunswick.

In Christ's name,

Bishop Larry Robertson

Celebrating the Eucharist with the Youth Team on the Midnight Dome in Dawson



St. Christopher's Celebrates 25 Years

By Lynn De Brabandere

St. Christopher's celebrated its 25th anniversary of the building of the log church in Haines Junction in July.

Henry Henkel was the master builder and architect calling on many community members to help with the construction. Henry, now in his eighties, was present at the celebration along with some of his family members to answer questions regarding the construction and to share stories and memories of the past.

There were two key messages that Henry left with the community. "Ask and you shall receive" and "Just believe." Henry still lives in Haines Junction, serving the community with his wife Barb. They remain dedicated, compassionate, and supportive to the ministry, outreach, and mission of St. Christopher's parish.

Bishop Larry Robertson led the celebration service giving a personal thank you to Henry and his wife Barb for their many years of love and service to the community of St. Christopher's.



Bishop Larry and Lynn Brabandere

**WINTER EDITION DEADLINE:
DECEMBER 15, 2016**

Mayo Enjoys a Time of Growth

By Charles and Valerie Maier
Photos by Thomas Evers

Spring and summer come and go quickly in the North. A lot gets crammed into a short span of time. These months have been especially busy in Mayo.

The parish received grants from three different funding agencies to carry out the second phase of a multi-year project to stabilize its historic church building. Works crews have been seen digging up foundations and replacing floor joists and roofing.

In June there was a wonderful celebration when seven children aged three months to fourteen years were baptized at a service that saw the church filled to capacity.

Later that month a group of young people from the Parish of the Redeemer in Toronto arrived to learn about and participate in activities around reconciliation and healing. After visiting Whitehorse and Dawson City, the seven teenagers and three adult supervisors slept on the floor of the village's Yukon College classroom. They helped out in the Frist Nation's garden, worked with the community's young people, and helped with church renovations.

Their priest, the Reverend Megan Jull, has written about their experiences, noting that the young people were expecting to find poverty and dire need. "Instead," she writes, "they discovered a proud and self-governing people, people who love the land and have regained control of it."

Megan continues, "We couldn't believe the generosity of the people we met. They fed us. They guided us. They taught us how to do their traditional beadwork.

"They don't even know us," one teen said, "why are they being so kind to us? We haven't done anything to deserve their kindness."

Megan describes joining in Mayo's Canada Day activities. "We watched the Northern Tutchone fashion show. We played their games. We listened to their music. We cheered when the helicopter came and dropped a hundred pounds of peanuts from the sky. One of our teens observed, "We just celebrated Canada Day, a celebration of this country, with the people who lived here first. It was totally integrated. I didn't know it could be this way."

"The elders and their families made a special effort to enter into our traditions too. They brought their children and grandchildren to attend our Messy Church program. They came to church with us on Sunday and filled that church. We had a picnic together. And we took pictures and hugged one another as we made our goodbyes."

Megan concludes with thanks, "to friends of Redeemer, the Anglican Foundation, the Diocese of Yukon, Bishop Larry Robertson, lay ministers Charles and Valerie Maier, and the Nacho Nyack Dun First Nation, whose generosity and commitment made this trip possible. Please know that you have all helped to shape and form a group of young people as ambassadors and agents of healing and reconciliation. You helped to give them a hopeful glimpse of how things could be."

In the diocese all are learning how the "ministry of presence" can transform communities and individuals living in them. This kind of ministry involves people ministering to one another. The Redeemer visit showed how a youth group can be part of this, and how successful this style of ministry can be. It gives us all a hopeful glimpse of the future in this time of growth.



Youth Team visits Saint Mary with Saint Mark in Mayo.



- *A morning Eucharist and church picnic concluded the youth visit to Mayo.*
- *Learning to bead with elders.*
- *Youth planting at the First Nation's garden.*



This issue is really late because I had almost nothing to work with at the July 15 deadline. When the material did come in , I was about to leave the territory on vacation. We are also at 12 pages rather than 16 due to a lack of material. DD

News from Fort Nelson



Children's time at Ford Hewlett's last service



The Rev. Glen Gough and Lay Minister in Charge Ford Hewlett



Church of the Northern Apostles Year End Picnic

Again this year, we decided to have our picnic at Wolf Creek Campground on May 29. We seem to choose the same weekend as the Salmon Release Program, so everywhere was very busy. This also meant we didn't have use of the picnic shelter, but we were blessed with a lovely morning; rain clouds around, but not on us!

It was wonderful to see so many young ones and families out, and as always we barely had enough room on the table for all the great food everyone brought. It's a lovely way to be together enjoying the beautiful surroundings that God gives us.



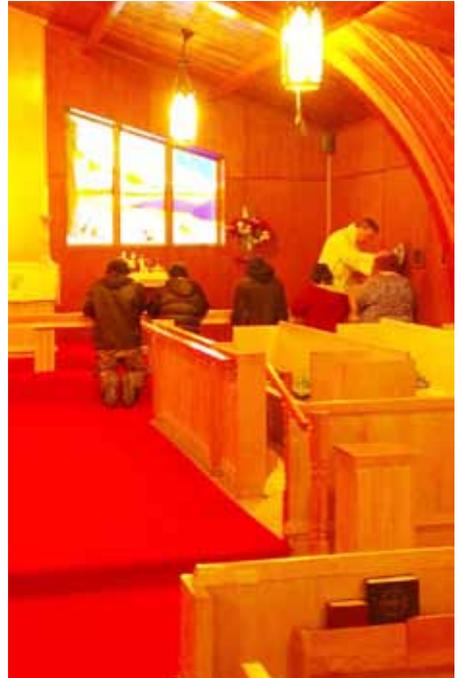
News from Christ Church Cathedral



At the Ecumenical Men's Breakfast in support of Braeburn Christian Camp, hosted by Cathedral on April 6, 2016, Doug McLean of the United Church spoke on recent developments in Solar Energy.



Dean Murphy and Whitehorse Mayor Dan Curtis at the Cathedral's regular Tuesday fund raising BBQ



Dean Sean Murphy in healing ministry at the communion rail.

The Youth Team visits the Old Log Church



A Father's Day Story

My name is Glen Koe. This is my Father's Day story about finding God. My Gramma taught me about God. She said, "He'll be there when you need Him. He'll answer your prayers".

Last weekend in May I was in the Halfway House and using (drugs.) A person's not supposed to be using anything there. I ended up going back to jail June 1st from the Halfway House. And my next court appearance was June 15th. On June 15th they told me I had to go back to jail until June 29th and I'd be able to go back to the Halfway House after that.

But I decided to pray to God at 11:00 or 11:30 that night on June 15th. And I always believed in God, but I was never sure about it. I prayed to God.

I said, "God, I really want to spend Father's Day with my son". I have four other sons, but they're all over the place. But the six-year old is right here in town. I never really asked God for anything important before, but this time I was asking from my Heart.

So I said, "God, you're the Driver, I'm the passenger, so whatever happens, you're in control, and whatever comes my way I'll deal with it. Good night, love you." That was on Monday.

Thursday morning June 18th at 9:40 there was a knock on my cell door telling me that I have a court time of 2:00 today – Thursday. I said, "No, I don't, not 'til Thursday, June 29th". And the guard said, "They added you to the court docket at the last minute". Right then and there I knew God had answered my prayers.

Sunday came and I spent Father's Day with my son. I got a picture of the two of us to remind me of the day. I love him so much that I would do anything to make him happy. He told me he loves me and he misses me.

I'll never forget that day. Since then I've made a big change in my life got better and am very happy to be living sober. Maybe someday I'll be able to tell my grandchildren about this story. I believe in God 100% now; God cemented the deal.



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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