

Northern Lights

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The Journal of the
Anglican Diocese
of Yukon
Winter 2016



Dawson's churches get ready for the Christmas Eve Pageant Slide Show

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 Revd. Lesley Wheeler-Dame & 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. 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 Ven. Sarah Usher: Executive Archdeacon; Members of the Diocesan Executive Committee; Diocesan Prayer Partner: Diocese of Fredericton.

Day 14 & 29

Patti Tettichi, 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



“We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” Mat. 2:2b

Did you ever wonder what made these Magi from the East follow the star? Who were they anyway? No one really knows. For that matter, what is this star that is mentioned? Lots of questions, with no solid answers. Lots of people speculate. They talk like they know the answers. Nevertheless they are learned guesses at best. What we do know is that these Magi believed that the star pointed to a King being born and that even they had insufficient information. They went to Herod when they got close enough.

What we see in this story is an act of faith. The Magi had signs of a king being born, but no certainties. Nevertheless there was something within that called them to follow. They may not have been able to say what it was, but that urging inside said “follow”.

Isn't that what we experience today as we come to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We come in an act of faith. In the world today people are questioning every aspect of the nativity story. We have no proof. We come in faith. There is something inside that urges us. This is real, this is truth. We believe by faith, in much the same way as the Magi. We come believing, and in coming, God honors our faith. In coming we may

find peace in a world where chaos is everywhere around us. We go forward by faith! Not by sight! Not by proof! By faith!

Moving within the Diocese of Yukon is no different. We move forward by faith. Our local training program moves forward. With their permission, we have adapted the Training package for Lay Leaders from the Diocese of Salisbury in England for use as the first level in our Lay Ministry training.

The Ministry of Presence saw the Rev Bert Chestnut move to Old Crow, Yukon and the process of building a new Church continues. Charles and Valerie Maier continue in Mayo building relationships.

The song says we walk by faith and not by sight. At our Executive we have decided as part of our mission outreach and training to look at having a Gospel Jamboree in the Summer of 2017. The date is to be set soon. This will be three or four days of workshops with each night ending in a Gospel Jamboree session. It will be a time of fellowship, learning and healing. Stay tuned for more information.

As we approach the celebration of the Birth of Christ, may we come in trust and faith believing that God will bless us and draw us together. Take time to be with your family, take time to be with our Lord and may you know His love and the power of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Blessings,

Bishop Larry

The Diocese from Top to Bottom

Our most northerly parish, **St Luke's, Old Crow**, has a new Minister. The **Rev. Bert Chestnut**, a priest from the Halifax area, has come on via the Ministry of Presence Program. Rev. Chestnut will be busy working with the deacon, **Rev. Marion Schafer** while they seek to build a new Church building as the current one is literally splitting in two and is unsafe and unfixable. Rev. Chestnut says he is on a high learning curve.

Rev. Laurie Munro in St. Paul's, Dawson City, reaches out to the community with a Dinner and Games Nights, and a youth choir is getting some children who didn't go to church. Rev. Percy Henry is now retired and has slowed down letting others to take up the ministry.

Charles and Valerie Maier of St. Mary with St. Mark, Mayo, are staying for another year. Their friendly voices are often heard at public meetings and in homes, sharing a cup of tea with the elders. They are relentless at strengthening relationships and being the presence of Christ in the community.

After a busy summer **Christ Church Cathedral** continues the busyness, with monthly Messy Church reaching many who would not normally go to church, and the parish offers a six week Teaching and Preaching series on Ephesians. **The Dean, the Very Rev. Sean Murphy D.D.**, is a natural with children in Messy Church and teams with the **Most Rev. Terry Buckle D.D (Ret)** to do the Teaching and Preaching series.

The Rt Rev. Larry Robertson has taken over priestly and pastoral duties at **The Church of the Northern Apostles** in Whitehorse. He is helped by Associate Priest, **the Ven. Sarah Usher**, and the parish Lay Ministers. The call is out in

the parish for at least two more to start the 10 week training course for Lay Ministers in January.

St Christopher's, Haines Junction, has just had another successful summer of having an Art Gallery in their basement. Construction is completed on making the building handicap accessible and having the Kitchen upgraded to have the Food Service Program continue in the Parish. The **Rev. Lynn De Brabandere** is on a leave of absence until summer of 2017. The parish is rallying together to continue the ministries that touch so many of the people in need in the community.

St. Martin's, Atlin, continues to move forward with its ministry to the community. The leadership team of **Rev. Vera Kirkwood, Rev. Dorthy Odian and Lay Minister George Holman**, holds the respect and gratitude of the community. On Church Property a morgue has been built. The Rectory has become a respite home and Special treatment center. The thrift store provides needed affordable clothes for miles around. St Martin's truly is a community church.

Watson Lake is finished putting a much needed furnace in and will soon be looking for a Ministry of Presence person to be part of their community at St. John's the Baptist.

At the most southerly end of the diocese in **Fort Nelson, St. Mary Magdalene**, has just received their new Priest, **The Rev. Lesley Wheeler-Dame**. Rev. Lesley comes to us with almost 20 years experience (much of it right here in our Diocese) and we look forward to how the parish will grow as they work together serving our Lord.

Teslin: Sprucing up St. Philips

St. Philips, Teslin got a face lift this summer with a new coat of paint and new eaves troughing. Many people from the community have commented on how nice it is to drive by and see it newly painted. The cross on the bell tower was also fixed which makes the church looked cared for again. With small congregations it is sometimes hard to make sure our properties are well kept but it is wonderful to hear from the community that they noticed the changes. We get a number of tourists throughout the year popping in to see the church and we also get a number of community members coming who just wish to come in and pray. We are blessed that we can leave the doors unlocked.

Ven. Sarah Usher

Executive Archdeacon
Diocese of Yukon
Priest-in-Charge, St. Philip's, Teslin



Top to Bottom - continued

We give thanks to the retired clergy who continue to minister in our Diocese often unseen. In Watson Lake the **Rev. David Kalles** provides sacramental ministry to the parish, while in Whitehorse, The **Rev. Mary Battaja** works with the First Nations and corrections while the **Rev. Martin Carroll** acts as Chaplin to the Whitehorse Correctional Center.

Thanksgiving Display at Northern Apostles



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

Dawson City PWRDF Efforts

by Valerie Maier

*There are strange things done in the
midnight sun*

*By the men who toil for...
recyclables???*

Robert Service's poem could have been written for the parishioners of St. Paul's Church in Dawson City, with a few twists that benefit the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund and their Church family.

Recyclable drink bottles, plastic and metal beverage cans are collected from around Dawson. These are cashed-in to create benefits that glitter like the gold the city is famous for.

Leading the crew of sourdoughs is Betty Davidson, the Diocese of Yukon's representative for the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. For the past six years, she and her crew have collected recyclables from local businesses. They sort and count them and return them to the local recycling centre for cash. The funds collected are then sent to benefit the Primate's Fund project in Pikangikum, and to help

refurbish the Church kitchen and other repairs to the main building.

This summer once again, Betty and her band of "gold seekers" mined these bottles, sorted them and then returned them with a passion. Betty found that businesses in this busy tourist town were glad to pass on the chore of recycling to the Church, knowing the funds go to worthwhile causes. Twice a week, businesses like Sourdough Joe's produced 12-16 dozen empties, while the Goldrush Campground delivered their "paydirt" to Betty's home. By the end of the tourist season this year, St. Paul's fortune seekers raised \$2470.

The miners are a motley band that includes parishioners from St Paul's, their priest, Rev Laurie Munro, and Vestry members. Bishop Larry Robinson and PWRDF Board Member, Valerie Maier, lent a hand when they were in Dawson City for a Vacation Bible School. All were touched by the gold fever of making this world a more just, healthy and peaceful place for all!

For more information you can check out <http://pwrdf.org/2016/a-motley-band-of-gold-seekers/>



Colleen Smith, Evelyn McDonald, Vicki Roberts, Betty Davidson, Shirley Pennell, Rev. Laurie Munro (Diane Baumgartner and Kathy Webster were absent)

St Paul's Christmas Pageant Preparation

by Betty Davidson

Our photoshoot for the nativity powerpoint this year used a mining backdrop. On Sunday, October 2 on a clear, but chilly afternoon, 24 young people, 7 leaders gathered first at Claim 33, where we were met by Sylvie Burkhard, then at Discovery Claim on Bonanza Creek and finally at the Dredge, to re-enact the Christmas story, complete with bulldozers, stuffy sheep and mining claims. Six hours later, we had some marvellous pictures, thanks to photographers, Andrea Magee, and Dan Davidson, and 33 very tired but happy people.



Cave Quest at St. Paul's

by Betty Davidson

Twenty-four young people, five Jr Leaders and five adult leaders came together at St. Paul's Anglican church in Dawson City from August 8-12, to explore, eat, sing, dance, create, exercise, and learn more about God's love at our Vacation Bible School, Cave Quest. It was amazing fun, and we all had a tremendous time building ideas for God in a created cave, walking on water, learning Bible stories, asking questions, learning to pray and getting to know each other in a new way.



Northern Apostles: Cutting Up for Hallowe'en

by Sarah Usher

The young and not so young had a good time at the Church of the Northern Apostles carving pumpkins after service. The children's focus was about Why being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. It was demonstrated to us that God takes our tops off and scoops all the icky stuff out of us making us clean. Then He gives us a nice smiling face and puts His light inside of us so that we can shine with goodness and love. This is a good analogy and the children loved the opportunity to have some fun with their parents afterwards.



Mayo Remembers on November 11

Close to half of Mayo's 400 residents, including many school children, turned out on November 11 to remember the contributions of armed forces personnel and to pray for a more peaceful world. The photograph shows some of those involved in the ceremony.

Left to right: RCMP Constable Matt Beckett, Lay Minister Charles Maier, M.L.A. Elect Ranger Don Hutton, Ranger Sergeant Ralph Mease, Legion Member Norma Mease, RCMP Constable Matt Trarer



Christ Church: a Baptism



Fellowship time after baptism of Leonardo Christian Pierre Vaneltsi on November 6 at Christ Church Cathedral. Pictured are The Rev. Martin Carroll (who did the baptism, seen above) wife Ruth and Leonardo and family.

Atlin: Thrift Store Improvements



New Steps at Thrift Store



St. Martin's interior

Executive Committee Gathering



Members of the Executive Committee enjoying some music and worship at our October meeting. It is always good to get together.

Thrift Shop Developments in Watson Lake

There are happy smiles on the faces of many Watson Lakers as we follow the development of the addition to our ramped and humble Thrift Shop. This building was constructed in 1990 as a project for the local Yukon College Carpenter Helpers Program; now, the same program has come to our aid to attach an additional twenty feet to the length of our shop. The project is going ahead under the supervision of local contractor Rich Harder, and the crew consists of an amiable group of twelve people - six men and six women, ranging in age from high school to early retirement. We have received so much support from our local residents (and our Town Council) that we have decided we must have a rather grand "Open House" in the spring, when we will be ready to show off our brand new expanded area.. Watch this space for more information!



A Blessed Excursion to Rampart House

By Rev. Laurie Munro

Blessed! That was the main word that was jumping into my mind during the boat ride to Rampart House. Sitting on the border between Alaska and Yukon, this had been the site of a trading post in the late 1800's and home to a number of the Gwich'in people. Having been asked long ago to say prayers in the graveyard, I was thankful to be finally able to make the trip. The Vuntut Gwich'in Heritage Department had room to fit me in on the boat carrying supplies to the people who were working on restoring the old church building, so I jumped at the invitation. Put it all together on a beautiful sunny day with wonderful company and what are you? Blessed!

We landed on the beach at the base of the cliff and carried a few of the supplies up to the camp. We were greeted with a lovely lunch, and even better conversation, before heading off through the trees down the short path to the graveyard. The specific grave that I had been asked to visit had been identified, so I knelt and prayed, surrounded by the people who accompanied me.

Black flies flew and mosquitos chewed but the most unusual thing was having an armed guard while I prayed. What else would one expect when bears had been spotted in the area? I listened to stories about the various people buried nearby, and their families, and thought about the amazing lives they had led. Once again, blessed!

We moved from the graveyard back through the camp to visit the old buildings that had already been restored. We prayed in each one, conscious of the passing of time since Dan Cadzow had built his house, of all of the people who had come to trade in his store, of the people who had lived in the community. We crossed a small ravine to the site of St. Luke's Anglican Church, the old



Landing at the cliffside.



St. Luke's Anglican Church



House under repair



building that is now being restored. Baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals and untold times of worship were held in that place. Standing in the doorway, looking down the river, it was impossible not to feel the strength of God's presence in that place.

Māhsi cho (Thank you VERY much) to Martha Benjamin for asking me to make this trip and to Megan Williams and the rest of the V.G. Government's Heritage Department who made it possible. God continue to bless you all!



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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