

# Northern Lights

# 177

The Journal of the  
Anglican Diocese  
of Yukon  
Spring 2017



*The ladies of Northern Apostles making Chrismons  
(Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them)  
for the Hanging of the Greens Service.*

# Thank you for Praying

## Day 1 & 16

**Whitehorse: Christ Church Cathedral.**

The Very Rev. Sean Murphy; Licensed Lay Ministers: Beverly 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 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 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



Greetings from the Yukon. At this time when the cold is still in the air (mid-March) it is good to know that the warmth and comfort of the Gospel is eternally present. May the blessings of the Gospel be with you.

I am currently involved in a funeral of a beloved member of one of the Whitehorse parishes. It causes one, once again, to reflect on the afterlife and other spiritual things. I will soon have to speak to someone I dearly love about making arrangements for after his death in the future. I guess as I get another year older, when these subjects come up it makes me realize that sooner or later it will come upon us all. I have come to realize that I no longer fear death. I know that I am a child of God and know Jesus as my Saviour. For me there is comfort knowing that God waits for me with open arms of love. I pray I can share some of this hope and comfort with others when their times comes.

They say Spring is coming and I guess it is, but I can't tell that as I look out the window at the minus 30 weather. Lent is here so Easter is not far behind. Maybe that is why I am thinking of eternal things. A little fella responded that Lent was the days before the time when God raised Jesus again this year. I laughed at this thought of annual resurrection. However that seems the way many, even Christians, think of Easter. We forget throughout the year that Jesus is risen now and forever. That He is ever beside us to guide, lead and comfort us. On Easter Sunday we will not gather to see him rise. Rather we come to celebrate that He is risen and is our Lord and Saviour. We will gather to proclaim that the Risen Lord offers salvation to all who decide to follow Him.

I urge you all to prepare yourself this Lent so that you may come together this Easter to proclaim Jesus as the risen Lord. I pray that each of you will be able to come together and declare Jesus as your Lord and Saviour.

May God richly bless you and your family.

In Christ,

Bishop Larry Robertson

# What's Happening in the Diocese

By Bishop Larry Robertson

Things are always changing in the Yukon. The sun is returning a little more each day. Nevertheless, it is still cold. One might say freezing. As I parked at the Cathedral it was -30 and I plugged in the vehicle to activate the heaters in it. On top of that it is already mid-March as I write this. I pray that this issue of the *Northern Lights* meets you in a warmer climate. I pray that the message within, warms your soul regardless of the weather around you.

When you work mostly with volunteers the coming and going of people seems to be constant.

The Ministry of Presence Program has truly been a blessing to the Diocese. It has allowed us to have four parishes open with local incumbents (volunteers) to do ministry in these parishes. I cannot stress enough the benefits of having someone in the community instead of hundreds of kilometers away. We have seen over the past years several parishes change and some waiting for someone to respond to the call.

Over the past year we have said goodbye to Ford Hewlett in Fort Nelson. Sadly, unexpectedly, we have had to say goodbye, for personal reasons, to Rev. Lynn De Brabandere in Haines Junctions. Rev. Lynn served in the Diocese for six years and was one of the first to volunteer under the Ministry of Presence Program. The two of them will be missed.

On the other hand we have welcomed into our Family the Rev. Bert Chestnut (Ministry of Presence) who went to Old Crow, Yukon. Coming from Halifax, in his words, "he has a large learning curve ahead." Talking with the people of Old

Crow, however, he has settled in well with them. Also new, but not so new, is the Rev. Lesley Wheeler-Dame and her husband, Eric, who have taken over the parish in Fort Nelson, BC. Rev. Lesley was with us years ago as a lay minister and then as a Deacon and Priest before venturing South. We look forward to Lesley's and Bert's experience and leadership in their parishes.

At the North end of our Diocese the Rev. Laurie Munro steadily works at having the Parish of St. Paul's, Dawson, grow and reach out to the community. Their food and fun night has gone over as a hit that is growing.

Charles and Valerie Maier (Ministry of Presence) of St. Mary with St. Mark, Mayo, are in the midst of organizing a youth exchange with a church in Toronto. Charles and Valerie are now in their second year in Mayo.

Dean Sean Murphy seems to go on ticking in the Cathedral. Having been in the Diocese for over 25 years, he is a source of experience that I draw upon.

At the Church of Northern Apostles, as requested by the Diocesan Executive, I have taken over as incumbent. Functioning in two positions, I don't know what I would do without our Diocesan Archdeacon Sarah Usher. Not only is she the Administrative Officer for the Diocese, she also looks after St Philips, Teslin and acts as an Associate Priest at Northern Apostles.

St. Martin's, Atlin, is planning to have a lay training program on the parables in September, and it is hoped that many from the diocese will be able to attend. Rev. Dorothy Odian and Rev. Vera Kirkwood along with Licensed Lay Minister George Holman continue to minister to the community.

With all these changes, we are praying for two more to volunteer in the Ministry of Presence Program. St. John the Baptist in Watson Lake will be ready for someone in the Fall and St. Christopher's, Haines Junction, needs someone to come and work with them. Information on the Ministry of Presence Program can be found on the Diocesan website or by emailing the Diocese.

We are all looking forward to the Gospel Jamboree to be held at the Cathedral in Whitehorse on August 3-6. We have the Rev. Canon Ginny Doctor from the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples and Capt. Shawn Branch of Threshold Ministries as two of our workshop presenters. Not only will there be Clergy, Lay Ministers and others from throughout the Diocese, it is hoped that many

will come from across Canada to spend their holidays with us. Again, information will be listed soon on our website. All are welcome.

Change is one thing we can be certain of in the Diocese of Yukon. Fortunately Jesus does not change. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. We can count on His grace, His forgiveness and His leading each day regardless, of the trials we go through.

I thank you all for your prayers and gifts. I wish all God's blessings upon you and your family this day. May you walk God's path with Jesus beside you, being energized and led by the Holy Spirit.

Blessings in Christ.



*The Bishop and Reverend Laurie during his visit to St. Paul's in February.*

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## News from Fort Nelson

### *My First Six Months Back* by Rev. Lesley Wheeler-Dame

I am so thrilled to back in the Diocese of Yukon. Yes, this is home. And yet, isn't it interesting that I knew beyond a doubt in 2008 that I was being called to leave here and take the position in the Diocese of Athabasca? We never know the plans that God has for us and we don't always see and understand the why of God's ways. The trick I guess is to be open to where God leads.

When we lived in Faro or Telegraph Creek or Watson Lake, we often made trips through Fort Nelson on our way to visit family in the Edmonton region. Every time we travelled through, we would say, "Boy, I would never want to live in Fort Nelson." Doesn't God have a wonderful sense of humour?



My first few days back provided an intense feeling of being home as I got to officiate at the wedding of my son and daughter-in-law. Travis and Kristina were married on September 3rd in Watson Lake. It was absolutely wonderful to be in that church building again for such a glorious purpose. That beautiful stained glass window behind the altar still shines and brings joy reminding us of the abundance of God's provision. It was a fantastic way to spend my first weekend back in the Diocese. (Thank you Bishop Larry for allowing me to

take my first weekend off and to be in Watson Lake.)

I spent my first couple months visiting members of the congregation and getting to know the community of Fort Nelson. Of course, I don't "know" the community yet. That will take quite a bit of time. But we are constantly amazed at how much this little place has to offer. Even through this tough economic time when so many have moved away, there is an abundance of things to do, to see, to be involved in and for which to be thankful. It is an ever-present reality of the abundance of God's blessings. Blessed Beyond Measure is how my mother would put it - that's what we are as God's people.

St. Mary Magdalene has spent many years without clergy and without a building of their own. Even though we know that it is not a building that makes the church, without a space to call their own for worship it is difficult to feel at home and to have that sense of belonging. However, the congregation has done well under the guidance of the ministry of presence program. They have managed to keep going and to ensure that worship happens. continued to have a place within the Ministerial Association, continued to meet their financial responsibility to the Diocese and have kept various ministries going including the Comfort Quilters.

In addition to the congregation, one of the biggest contributing factors to St. Mary Magdalene's willingness to stand strong and firm is found in our deacon, the Rev. Glen Gough. He has been a great source of assistance and support for my first few months here. I am truly grateful for his commitment to serve God in however God might lead. And I know how hard it can be for a Deacon to be "in charge" and to suddenly have a priest come on the scene to be "in charge". Luckily both Glen and I are well aware who is really in charge and

both of us chose to serve our Lord.

A week before Christmas we borrowed an idea from the Parish of Athabasca in the Diocese of Athabasca and held a Community Festival of Readings and Music. We put our own spin on it and invited members of community businesses and agencies to do the traditional Lessons & Carols readings and everyone who attended joined in singing traditional Christmas songs. It was a delightful evening, a great way to connect the community and the church and I am convinced we were all richly blessed.



Then on the fourth Sunday of Advent we were blessed once again by the ministry of the children to the congregation. The children put a visual expression to the readings of Christmas. This was all without practices ahead of time. It was simply a natural process. They seem to have an innate sense of their place within the family of God. We, like many congregations, don't have children on a regular, consistent basis so it is difficult to have a Sunday School. We are working with the United Church congregation with the hopes of pooling our resources of time, talent and treasure to have a children's ministry.

We were blessed to have Lydia come home from university for Christmas. She is attending Memorial at the Grenfell campus in Corner Brook, NL. It has been a tough year as she is a long way from home and it is not easy or practical for us to visit her. She will be home at

the end of April and is looking forward to getting to know the community. Then Shannon, Mike and family came after Christmas and once again I was thankful to be back in the area and closer to some of my children.

Right after Christmas I took a couple days to drive up to Watson Lake and was reminded once again of the beauty of God's creation. The buffalo were out forcing me to slow down and take notice. The hoar frost was thick and the sun was shining. I love basking in the sun and have no problem telling people I am a "son" worshipper. Both kinds.

As much as I could just immerse myself in the beauty of God's creation, I am reminded that God calls me to minister with and among the people of God. I have been attending the Community Round Table gatherings once a month and we are well aware of the pain and anguish for so many in the community and surrounding area. The economic hardship has hit in so many ways and is very visible in many ways. We continue to do what we can to offer encouragement and support as well as working with the community agencies and other congregations to do what we can, as we are able.

We have started a new newsletter format called The Way (at St. Mary Magdalene). It is our hope that we will eventually have a web site as well. These are two of the ways we are working to improve communication within the congregation and the community. In addition I take part along with other clergy in providing articles to the local paper.

Eric and I provided an Epiphany evening to the congregation on January 6th. This is our way of saying thank you to the congregation for their support of us. Bishop Larry was in attendance. On the 8th we had my official installation and then the Bishop stayed for the week to provide some teaching. It was great to spend time with him and to have time to pray together.

We are preparing to begin a Bible Study called The Story which, thanks to information from Bishop Larry, we purchased from christianbook.com. We are just waiting for the participant copies to come and will start right away. We spent time working on our two year plan which came out of the last Diocesan Executive Meeting. This is being sent to the Diocese and we have already begun working on one of the aspects we identified in that plan.

In the upcoming months we will participate in the Community Walk of the Cross organized by the Ministerial Association. At St. Mary Magdalene we have started a community prayer and praise time. Most exciting of all is the upcoming summer celebrations. It is the

75th anniversary of the building of the Alaska Highway, the 150th birthday of Canada and the 60th anniversary of St. Mary Magdalene. Plans are well under way for a celebration on the Canada Day weekend and we are hoping to participate in a big way in the community.

It has been a fantastic, busy and joy filled six months, including the opportunity to take part in the Diocesan Executive and to attend the national consultation called To Equip The Saints. I look forward to being further involved in whatever God calls and wherever God leads. I am truly thankful to be back. I am excited to be part of the Diocese and feel extremely blessed to know that we continue to be a Diocese that aims to be faithful, trusting in God, and Blessed Beyond Measure.

## Holding a Vigil in Mayo



Following the shooting deaths of six worshippers at a mosque in Quebec City, Mayo residents gathered on the steps of the Yukon Government building in Mayo. Prayers were said for the victims and their families, and for peace and tolerance. They walked together to the Curling Rink in an act of solidarity against racism of every form.



## Dawson Offers Solidarity to the Bereaved of Sainte Foy



Between 25 and 30 people gathered in the theatre room of the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre shortly after 6 pm on January 31, 2017 to express their solidarity with those of the Muslim faith who were attacked and killed at a Quebec City mosque on Sunday evening.

The event was organized by Fire Chief Jim Regimbal, with the cooperation of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, which donated the space for the evening.

"It's good to see so many gathered here in the embrace of solidarity," he said. "We come this evening to reflect on the lives that were lost ... this Sunday in Sainte-Foy, Quebec, while they were practicing their faith.

"We're here to condemn this act, to unite, and to show our Muslim brothers and sisters that, as a society, we can come together in such situations to support each other, no matter what you believe in or what your background is."

TH Elder Angie Joseph-Rear opened the meditations with a prayer during which all those present joined hands in an oblong circle.

"I pray every day for peace, for our children tomorrow ... that we teach them to love each other. I pray for the families of those that were harmed and those that were murdered."

Father Anthony, recently arrived to lead St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, reached back to the Biblical book of Genesis, to speak of how the Lord condemned Cain, the first murderer. He

spoke of the sacredness of life and how no one has the right to take it away.

"As the community of Dawson City, we express our heartfelt condolence to the parents, brothers and sisters, family members and relatives of the victims."

The Reverend Laurie Munro, herself the grandchild of immigrants who found a new home in Canada and were welcomed here, spoke of that context in her life and how it has applied to so many others.

"All have been welcomed (here) and have been given the freedom to be themselves, to practice their own faiths, Most of those faiths have one thing in common, and they all word it differently, but it is a belief that we should all treat each other the way we want to be treated ourselves.

"I pray for the families who have lost their loved ones, and I pray for healing in their lives. But I pray also for the family of this young man, whose brokenness was so severe that he would commit this act, and I pray for all those who are broken like him."

Love, she said, is the great commandment of the Christian faith, and it should apply to everyone, regardless of race or creed.

Regimbal read statements of support on behalf of Muhammad Javed, of the Yukon Muslim Society, and from Premier Sandy Silver, currently having a short vacation in Mexico.

Chief Roberta Joseph spoke of the tradition of First Nations people to come

together in such times, and to have respect for others.

“It’s hard to hear when this much disrespect can happen here in Canada. We hope that things like this are not going to become a practice, as it is in other countries.

“This is a time for everybody to really think about this and really work towards ensuring that wherever we live in Canada . . . that we share our sense of hope and respect and freedom for everybody in Canada.”

Deputy Mayor Bill Kendrick spoke on behalf of the City of Dawson, condemning the actions in Quebec that left six people dead and 19 injured.

“We believe that this criminal act was carried out by a small and broken minded individual who has absolutely no idea what this country stands for in terms of the strength we find in our diversity.

“Let us remember not to generalize or assume things about other people, other faiths, other nations. Not only are there always exceptions to what we think we know, it’s always better when we seek to understand others, rather than to simply judge with prejudice.

“Let us stand with all people in this country in respectful solidarity.”

Several people spoke in support of the need to support others.

Regimbal noted that the City’s flags were flying at half mast with the approval of council. He also reminisced about his experiences as a boy and teen being friends with a recent immigrant to his hometown and how much that had meant to them both.

Betty Davidson spoke of the need for all citizens to be lights of hope and good will in these dark days.

A recently arrived man at the back of the auditorium spoke of his surprise to learn that such things could happen in Canada, but said that this gathering had been quite moving for him.

The evening concluded with a reading of the names of all the victims and a gathering at the front of the theatre.

The victims of the Quebec City mosque shooting were Azzeddine Soufiane, 57; Khaled Belkacemi, 60; Ibrahim Barry, 39; Mamadou Tanou Barry, 42; Abdelkrim Hassane, 41; and Boubaker Thabti, 44.



*The latest edition of St. Paul’s Vestry was sworn in a few weeks after the annual congregational meeting. Here we see Diane Baumgartner. Kathy Webster. Betty Davidson. Chris Collin, Shirley Pennell, Brenda Caley and Reverend Laurie Munro.*

# News from Watson Lake

## Students Help Expand Watson Lake Thrift Store

By Whitehorse Star on March 8, 2017

While Whitehorse is about to lose its main thrift store, the Anglican Church thrift store in Watson Lake will be one-half larger when it reopens this spring.

The 780-square-foot store has a 480-square-foot addition.

The construction was done entirely by students in the Skills for Employment carpentry program run by the town's Yukon College community campus.

"We are extremely happy with the end result. The store was getting far too crowded," said longtime resident Jenny Skelton, one of the four women who staff the store on a volunteer basis.

"The students worked very well together and did a great job. The thrift store is used by everybody in the community whether to donate or select items."

Skelton noted that the original building was also constructed by community campus students back in 1990.

The thrift store has operated in the community since 1970. The students also added a changing room to the store.

"The original building held up well," said Rick Harder, the Red Seal carpentry instructor for the program.

"Projects like this are a great way to introduce students to the trade and add value to the community."

The Anglican Church provided approximately \$18,000 in building supplies toward the project and prepared the site for construction.

"We would not have been able to do this without the expertise provided by the college campus and the hard work of the students," said Skelton.

"We are also very grateful to the Town of Watson Lake for their support of the project."

The eight students are Valarie Shepherd, William Shepherd, Deborah Chadwick, Kevin Pete, Austria Lopez, Rachael Chief, Devin Chief, and Tasha Stewart, aged 18 to 61.

They were celebrated at a community lunch in January.

A grand reopening for the thrift store, which is closed during the winters, is planned for the spring.

Meanwhile, in Whitehorse, the Salvation Army recently that it would close its Family Thrift Store on April 12 because it can no longer be financially sustained.



*The work crew*



*The new space*

## More News from Watson Lake

### New Thrift Shop Space Goes into Action

During the latter part of the autumn and early winter a 20ft (6m) extension was built onto the Thrift Shop. This was achieved by Yukon College kindly using this project to teach a course for carpenter's helpers. Instruction was by Rick Harder. The interior is complete and after a lot of work by Dianne Amann and her helpers the shop was ready for a 'grand opening' this last Saturday (April 1), which was well attended. The extra space, which includes a changing room, makes it a lot easier to organize the displays and it is now possible to walk down the aisles without turning sideways! The thrift shop will now operate through the spring and summer.

*Tim Liverton*, Licensed Lay Minister



# News from Northern Apostles

## A Lenten Event

On March 25 the congregation of the Church of Northern Apostles met for a Lenten Event. Eighteen people of the parish gathered for fellowship and to get ready for Easter. We had a potluck supper to just be together as a family. We then had a time of crafts where we prepared some of our Easter decorations.

The theme for the Easter Season is “New Life” visualized in the Butterfly. The crafts were two kinds of Butterflies that will decorate our Church in the Easter season. As Lent is a time for prayer we also made Family Prayer Beads as an aid in praying for our families.

We then ended the time together with a hymn sing where we learned some new Lenten Songs and one for the Easter Season. It was good for the Family to gather and meet together to share in Christ’s Love.



## More News from Northern Apostles

### Becoming Fishers of Men

On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, at Children's Time, Ven. Sarah Usher had the little ones step into a boat while she explained how we could all become "Fishers of People". Not sure how much the children learned, but it sure seemed like they were having fun. A little later our Music Ministry stepped into the boat and sang a hymn, sending us all the same message, it was quite a powerful presentation. Thank you, Sarah.



## Birthdays at the Cathedral



Left: Celebration of Cathedral member Mary Merchant's 99<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Right: Dean Sean's birthday (He's not sayin')

# News from The Cathedral



Above:  
Cathedral AGM lunch  
Feb. 12.

Below:  
Recent Tea and Hymn  
Sing event at the Ca-  
thedral



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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