

# Northern Lights

# 179

The Journal of the  
Anglican Diocese  
of Yukon  
Winter 2017



The Diocese gathers for a happy celebration of ministry.

# Thank you for Praying

## Day 1 & 16

### Whitehorse: Christ Church Cathedral.

The Very Rev. Sean Murphy; The Rev. Elsa Cheeseman. Licensed Lay Minister: Beverley Whitehouse, Gaya Tiedeman 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: 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: 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 Rt. Rev. Larry Robertson, Ven. Sarah Usher, Len Usher. Licensed Lay Ministers Eileen Carver, Sheila Robertson & Cheri Malo

## 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. 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. 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

Without a doubt 2017 has been the busiest time that I have encountered in my time as Bishop of Yukon, which started in 2010. It has been a time of soul searching for me as well as for the Diocese. Where is God leading us? What does the future hold? It has been these kinds of questions that have been considered this year.

I am coming up to the completion of my first year back into a parish (Church of the Northern Apostles). It has been a relearning experience for me and one I am enjoying more as I get settled into it. We have increased our lay ministers from two to four and without their help and that of Archdeacon Sarah Usher who is the associate priest, I would not be able to do the work. The parish has really had to embrace the Diocesan concept of Circle Ministry with many of the parishioners taking on many roles.

The summer seem busier than normal with the death of my brother, and all that that entailed, and the joy of the Gospel Jamboree. The Jamboree was a great time bringing people from all over the Diocese and beyond. The Diocese surprised me with a new mitre that was beaded with a northern theme that speaks of the Yukon. It is an honour to wear such a gift for the glory of God.

As the summer came to an end, over 20 members of the Diocese meet in beautiful Atlin for a weekend of teaching on the parables. We are thankful for the training funds from the Council of the North that made it possible.

At our Executive Meeting in the fall we had some time to look at the future of the Diocese. I, as bishop, am looking at 2020 as a retirement date. There was much talk about choosing the next bishop. We realized that the Yukon is a unique Diocese in the Ministry of the Bishop and there was much talk as to how to ensure the next bishop could continue on in the way the Diocese was



going.

There was also much talk about the Whitehorse area. There was much positive talk on how the Cathedral was trying to reach out to the community with the very limited resources and personnel. There was also talk of the continued needs - of which two in particular came up. It was stated that there are two to three thousand First Nations people who live in Whitehorse and call themselves Anglicans. There are also those who come in for education. Also it was recognized that there are also a noticeable group of Inuvialuit from the MacKenzie Delta. Another issue that came up was the fact that there is an increasingly growing group of low and very low income people in our community. All of these groups have little contact with the Church. How do we reach out to them as our personnel is already stretched and there is no finances for more personnel?

After much conversation regarding these issues the following was decided. The Executive made a motion to elect a Coadjutor Bishop at the next Synod in 2018. A Coadjutor Bishop automatically

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## The Bishop's Message

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succeeds the Diocesan Bishop when he retires. The idea behind this is that the Diocesan Bishop would be there to help the Coadjutor Bishop adjust to the unique position in the Yukon and be there to assist and help when needed. The Diocesan would then be able to dedicate much time to addressing the needs in the Whitehorse area in conjunction with the Cathedral. He has had over 40 years of working with people in the North, both First Nations and those of lower incomes. It was felt that this would begin to address many of the concerns that arose. In order to afford the finances involved in electing a Coadjutor Bishop, I am prepared to give up my salary and take my pension while still working as Diocesan in order make this happen.

Continuing in the business, we had two more joyous occasions. First, the

Rev. Dorothy Odian was ordained to the Priesthood and Mrs. Elsa Kolm Cheeseman was ordained to the Diaconate. Both these positions are non-stipendiary.

And now, Christmas. We really do need to step back and remember what it is all about: God coming into the world to make a way for us to become part of his family. We need to take time to ponder this amazing gift of God. This same loving God asks us to share this amazing gift of love with those around us. What can you do to reach out to your community so they might see the Christ in you? So they might see and want God's amazing gift of Jesus.

I pray that this Christmas that you will experience the presence of God and His love in your life and those of your family and loved ones. May you experience the Christ in your life and may others see Christ in you through your words and actions.

Blessings and have a Merry Christmas

*Bishop Larry and Sheila Robertson.*



*Bishop Larry and our newest Deacon, Elsa Kolm Cheeseman*

# News From St. Mary with St. Mark

## Mayo Reopening

It was a joy to be able to visit the parish of St. Mary with St. Mark in Mayo for the re-opening of the newly renovated church building. A concert highlighting local talent filled the building with song on Saturday night. Various contributors to the project were thanked and given opportunities to speak throughout the evening. The closing, with the singing of *Amazing Grace*, touched the hearts of many people present. A service of Holy Communion was held on Sunday afternoon.

What touched me the most was the sharing of memories. People spoke lovingly of the service offered in the past. John Peter's seventy years of devotion to the Church was mentioned with praise and thanksgiving. One person, seeing the familiar preparations and service at the altar, was moved by the reminder of the ministry offered by Ven. Ken Snider. The warmth of the fellowship combined with the leadership of Charles and Valerie Maier bodes well for the future of the parish.

*Ven. Laurie Munro*



**SPRING EDITION DEADLINE:  
FEBRUARY 20, 2018**

# The Gospel Jamboree

In August the Diocese of Yukon came together for a Gospel Jamboree at Christ Church Cathedral in Whitehorse. It was a four day event that brought together people from all over the Diocese as well as from as far away as Toronto, the Maritimes and Alaska. In the evenings people gathered for a time of praise and song. A blend of new music and traditional Gospel was sung by different groups with the emphasis on community praise.

During the day we had four workshops

being led by leaders from within and outside the Diocese. A group from Alaska taught youth gospel songs on the fiddle and guitar, their group is called "Dancing with the Spirit". Other workshops were on Healing, Contemporary Hymns, Evangelism and Church Growth.

Over 80 people in all gathered for this first of its kind for the Diocese of Yukon, but not the last. This was partially funded by a grant administered from the Council of the North.



# A Mitre for the Bishop

From the beginning of time, or maybe just from the beginning of Bishop Larry's ministry in Yukon, he had hinted that he had a mitre that he just needed someone to decorate for him and then he would wear it.

Well Betty Davidson finally took his hint and found a person to do the beadwork. After much discussion with the Executive Archdeacon and Larry's wife, Sheila, a design was chosen and

we all waited with bated breath to see the final result.

At the Gospel Jamboree, the artist, Dolores Scheffen, presented Bishop Larry with the finished piece. Bishop Larry was speechless to say the least. Dolores did an absolutely beautiful job as you can clearly see from the pictures. This was given to the Bishop as a gift from the various parishes within the Diocese.



*Bishop Larry with Dolores Scheffen, who decorated the mitre with beadwork.*



*The Bishop has to learn how to wear a mitre from Bishop Barbara Andrews.*



*The Bishop and his family.*



# A Visitor with Past Connections

One of the delights of living in Dawson is that one never knows who will be dropping by for a visit. On July 12<sup>th</sup>, the weekly Food'n'Fun Night meal was just beginning when we were joined by two visitors, David Flewelling and Gail Tunstead. The couple had dropped in at St. Paul's as part of their journey to see the land where David's grandfather, Rev. Frederick Fairweather Flewelling, had ministered during the 1890's. We had a lovely evening, sharing a meal and conversation and looking over documents held by the church and others David had brought with him.

The following day, I met David and Gail downriver at the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in community known as Moosehide. It was a busy day with a youth camp teaching traditional fishery lore and skills taking place. For David, it was a chance to see one of the results of his grandfather's ministry as he viewed the buildings and cemetery.

On May 29, 1897, Rev. F.F. Flewelling, returning to Dawson to find it overrun with goldseekers wrote in his journal, "The nearest unclaimed land lies about two miles below the old place and in order to prevent future trouble I have purchased a tract of forty acres there and will build the mission-buildings on one end of the plot of ground and reserve the rest for the Indians."

Moosehide is now the home to cabins, old and new, and the bi-annual Moosehide Gathering. During the gathering, people come from Yukon, Alaska, the Northwest Territories and beyond to sing, dance, swap stories and learn traditional skills. A sacred fire is kept burning from the opening ceremony throughout the weekend, with a communion service in the arbour on Sunday, just before the closing ceremony.

Moosehide is also the home of St. Barnabas Anglican Church, which stands on the land Flewelling reserved for the mission-buildings. Although it is in need of urgent repairs to the floor and the foundations, St. Barnabas remains a focal point for many in the life of the Moosehide community.

*Ven. Laurie Munro*



*Ronald Johnon, David Flewelling, Gail Turstrsd and Laurie Munro in the cook-house at Moosehide.*

## News From St. Paul's

### A Homespun VBS

Vacation Bible School doesn't need to come from a kit. Last summer's VBS in Dawson came from the imaginings of a team. We recognized that many of the children who would attend would not know most of the stories from the Bible and that the building of Christian characters is one of the great needs today. Five themes were chosen and Bible stories, music, skits, crafts, outdoor activities and snacks were developed to go with them.

Members of the community painted images of David and Goliath, Esther, Joseph and his brothers, Daniel in the lion's den, and Mary and Martha on large sheets. Each day a new image would be hung on the walls of St. Paul's historic church, along with its theme: trusting God, prayer, forgiveness, faithfulness and making choices. Community members helped with supplies and food preparation while leaders for the various sessions reinforced the themes through the music, teaching and activities.

It was a fun time and one of the joys was hearing some of the children, a few weeks later, still talking about which was their favourite story. Homespun can be a lot of fun.

*Ven. Laurie Munro*



# St. John the Baptist, Watson Lake

## Ladies' Activities

by Dianne Amann

With the end of November approaching, the Thrift Shop Ladies are anticipating the wind-down of our little shop, when we will enjoy a much-appreciated breather until it is time to prepare for our Spring opening. Our new addition helped us to enjoy a very busy season this year, and we were especially grateful for the services of our summer student, Sierra Lutz, who was with us for eight weeks this summer, thanks to the Canada summer Student Program. Our little clutch of volunteers meanwhile, has grown to six ladies who offer up their free time each week to sort, fold, organize, tidy, and deal with the changing seasons. Our industrious "rag lady" Jenny continues to cut and sell our cotton rags to garages, mines, restaurants. Thanks to Jenny, our rags have developed a reputation of their own, and there always seems to be another outlet requesting their services.

Meanwhile, it is time to prepare for the Annual Christmas Craft Fair, which our local Library dutifully organizes each year. This represents an opportunity for us to promote our lovely knitteds courtesy of W.A. House, and our own quilts. "Part two" of this

project will occur in December when we participate in the town's Moonlight Madness Event, and sell any left-over items.

For many decades, ladies in our community have made a point of meeting on a monthly basis for breakfast in one of our hotels. We call it "Ladies Christian Breakfast" at which time we enjoy a devotional – and much chatter! This month it will be time for us to commence laying our plans for our annual Christmas Party – ladies and daughters only! This is an evening of pure fun – shared pot luck dinner, games, music, laughter, culminating in our Chinese gift exchange. This is a lovely opportunity for long-time residents and newcomers alike to mix and enjoy each other's company. Women who cannot make it out to join us are remembered with a basket of interesting items which is delivered to them.

We in Watson lake have learned the secret to a succesful event that is for all of our congregations to pool our talents and skills together. We see the sense to this simple fact reflected throughout the year, from the success of our little Thrift Shop, to our happy little Christian Ladies group, which continues to bring pleasure to all of us --- and I haven't even told you about our monthly inter-church services --- Next time.

## More Homespun VBS from St. Paul's



# Christ Church: Messy Church Crafts

## Advent: Getting Ready for Jesus

Some Messy Church Crafts from our November 19 session. Crafts are: an

Advent Broche; a Christmas Tree to Decorate; an Advent Crown: Jesus is King; a stocking to colour





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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