

PARISH PROFILE
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
WHITEHORSE, YUKON

OUTLINE:

1. Worship
2. Description of the congregation
3. Parish groups and ministries
4. Leadership and staff
5. Description of the church and hall
6. History of the congregation
7. Parish priorities
8. Description of the rectory
9. Description of Whitehorse community



Old Log Church

Bishop Stringer Park

Hellaby Hall

Christ Church Cathedral



1. WORSHIP

Sunday: There are two services. 8:30 am Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer. 10:00 am Holy Eucharist from the Book of Alternative Services. Commencing May 2022, the 10:00 am service will alternate between Christ Church Cathedral and the Church of the Northern Apostles. The schedule commencing September 2022 is yet to be determined. When there is a Fifth Sunday in the month, the 10:00 a.m. service is usually Morning Prayer. The average Sunday attendance in 2022 is 25 – 30 persons as the parish is recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

Wednesday: Commencing May 2022, there will be a trial of a Family Eucharist at 7:00 pm. This will alternate between Christ Church Cathedral and the Church of the Northern Apostles.

ZOOM: Church Service officiated by the Priest and/or Bishop is recorded on Thursday Morning at the Cathedral and played on the Diocese web site every Sunday during the COVID Pandemic.

Music: The Canadian Book of Common Praise is used mostly. Our music director uses the electric organ and piano. The cathedral has mounted microphones and speakers.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONGREGATION

There are approximately 100 households on the parish list. We have a variety of persons attending. Many members attending are seniors and retired persons. We are constantly updating our parish list. Due to COVID 19 restrictions it is difficult to place a number on families who are physically attending and who are attending the ZOOM meeting and keeping isolated.

3. PARISH GROUPS AND MINISTRIES

Choir: There is a group of dedicated choir members of 8 to 12 persons. The choir director has weekly choir practice by Zoom due to Covid-10 restrictions. Advent and Easter services are recorded with the choir participating by Zoom and these services are broadcast on the Diocesan web site.

Anglican Church Women: There is an active group of 8 to 12 ladies who meet monthly when able. This group does service as well as educational activities. They take a keen interest in the activities of the Cathedral.

Sanctuary Guild: There is a small group of dedicated persons who attend to the sanctuary duties for Sunday and Wednesday evening worship.

Common Threads: Is a ministry of dedicated ladies, who meet weekly on Tuesdays to share common interests, knit and crochet items of need in the community blankets, hats, mastectomy prosthetics.

Keep Fit: Is a weekly ministry led by a highly motivated and qualified leader making available gentle exercise for the minds, bodies and spirits of older persons.

Tea and Hymn Sing: Is a monthly ministry to provide a formal tea (afternoon high tea) and to sing old favorites hymns with a piano and cello accompaniment.

The Gathering: Is a biweekly Ministry of a bible study and a meal organized and attended by the first nations members of our congregation. It is presently held in private homes, due to the COVID 19 restrictions.

Men's Zoom Meeting: This was organized to provide the men of the Cathedral and the Church of the Northern Apostles an opportunity to share issues over a coffee. Due to COVID 19 restrictions the meeting is presently conducted over ZOOM on Tuesday mornings.

Whitehorse Street Ministry: Arch Bishop Terry Buckle started a street mission and since 2015 it has been continued on by Rev. Elsa Kolm Cheeseman on Thursday mornings.

4. LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

The Diocese of Yukon offers an employment package, consistent with the Council of the North standards, which can be accessed through the Diocese of Yukon office.

Due to impending retirement of the two priests in Whitehorse parish, it is planned to have one priest providing alternate weeks of service at the Cathedral and Church of the Church of the Northern Apostles, with the assistance of the Deacon and Lay Ministers.

There is one lay minister and one lay minister in training. The lay minister usually leads the first part of the services up to the Sanctus. The Deacon and Lay Ministers may lead a whole service (Morning Prayer and Eucharist with reserved sacraments) and preach. Lay people participate in many aspects of the Sunday liturgy: such as Chalice Administrators, greeters, readers, the leaders for the prayers of the people, counting collection, sanctuary guild, etc.

There is one part-time office secretary/receptionist and one part-time janitor. A groundskeeper is hired for summer work and a company is hired for snow removal.

Summary of Leadership, Staff and Volunteers:

• Priest in Charge	1
• Retired Priest	1
• Deacon	1
• Lay Minister	1
• Lay Minister in Training	1
• Servers	2
• Altar / Sanctuary Guild	5
• Chalise Administrator	5
• Scripture Readers	12
• Prayer Leaders	6
• Greeters	9
• Offering Counters	9
• Envelope Secretary	1
• Treasurer	1
• Wardens	2
• Vestry Members	6
• Secretary	1
• Janitor	1

Christ Church Cathedral provides pastoral care and services at continuing care centers in Whitehorse - Copper Ridge Place, Thomson Centre and Whistle Bend Place. The Diocesan Rev. Elsa Kolm-Cheeseman is the

Cathedral's representative on the Hospital Spiritual Care Committee. Pastoral care is provided for many in the community in their homes and in hospital.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH AND HALL

The church was built in 1959 with a seating capacity of 160 persons. The interior is laminated wood beams with a plank ceiling in a mahogany stain. There are colourful stained-glass windows on each side of the altar, along the outside wall and at the rear of the church.

The hall attached to the church was built in 1982. It is named after Deaconess Hilda Hellaby, a well-known deaconess who had a profound ministry in Whitehorse. The hall is available for use by the parish, renting to the community for receptions and educational events which provides a small income to the Cathedral.

The Synod offices for the Diocese of Yukon are located in the rear of Hellaby Hall.



6. HISTORY OF THE CONGREGATION

The first church in Whitehorse was an "old log church" built in 1900. The present Cathedral building was built in 1959 and is located on the same block. The Old Log Church is now a museum operated by the Yukon Church Heritage Society.

In the early part of 1980 Bishop Ron Ferris initiated the creation of four satellite congregations, of which the Church of the Northern Apostles is the only remaining active parish.

The parish of St. Simon's, a small First Nations congregation who worshipped in the Old Log Church, has joined with the Cathedral congregation. There are many Yukon First Nations persons who are Anglican. When they come to Whitehorse, they will visit the Cathedral and treat it as a spiritual home.

Also, during the summer, there are tourists traveling through who will attend Sunday services.

7. SOME PAST CONGREGATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

1993: hosted the North American Deans' conference in Whitehorse

2000: Centennial Celebrations: in August, four outdoor services with historical liturgies, speakers included Rev. Harold Munn, Rev. John Privett, Rev. Herb O'Driscoll, and Bishop Terry Buckle.

September 2001: a service in the Gwitchin language, led by First Nations persons for First Nations persons. This is the second such service to be held in the Cathedral.



For many years volunteers from the Cathedral led a Historical Evensong service every Sunday and Wednesday evenings during the summer in the Old Log Church Museum.

For many years Christ Church Cathedral provided weekly barbequed lunches in Stringer Park, beside the cathedral for folks downtown as a service and fund raiser.

8. PARISH PRIORITIES

In 2021, Christ Church Cathedral conducted a parish survey. The purpose of this survey was to identify the issues and their importance to the congregation. The survey was divided into four sections: Worship,

Congregational Life, Christian Life and Administration. The results of the survey will form the basis of future development and enhancement of parish life and worship.

Many of the identified priorities included areas of administration, working with lay people and building up the congregation.

8. DESCRIPTION OF THE RECTORY

At the present time, Christ Church Cathedral does not have a rectory. Currently, the rector of Christ Church Cathedral is residing in the rectory on the property of the Church of the Northern Apostles. This rectory is a modern 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms home with 2 levels of living and an attached single car garage.

9. DESCRIPTION OF WHITEHORSE

Whitehorse, the capital of the Yukon, is at an elevation of 670–1,702 m and is a community of 33,781 people (2021 census). First Nations people make up about 20 per cent of the population. Although more and more Yukoners are retiring and remaining in the territory, it has a relatively young, very ethnically, mixed population.

Whitehorse is 2,070 kilometres from Edmonton. Access is via the Alaska Highway or the Stewart Cassiar Highway. Air North and Air Canada provide air service to Whitehorse from Vancouver, Calgary, Kelowna, Kamloops and Edmonton.

The city centre is located in a valley along the Yukon River. However, the city is 416 km² and is spread 35 km along the Alaska Highway. There are residential areas scattered throughout this area that range from multiple apartment units to single-family housing, to country residential lots ranging up to 10 acres.

The compact "downtown" has a full range of stores and services as would be found in any city this size. The Federal, Territorial and First Nation government have offices in Whitehorse.

There is a fully equipped hospital and a number of medical and dental clinics.

Yukon University (formerly Yukon College) offers a range of courses though its main campus is in Whitehorse and the community campuses throughout the Yukon.

The Yukon Arts Centre is the venue for many activities from local talent to guest performers.

There are many recreational facilities for the well being of infants, youth and seniors. Whitehorse has hosted the Canada Winter Games and the Arctic Winter Games.

There is a ski/snowboard hill close to town and some of Canada's best cross-country ski trails within the city limits.

There are two golf courses within the city of Whitehorse.

There are hills, lakes and wilderness areas within the city and within easy access any time of the year.

Daylight hours in the Whitehorse range from a low of 5.5 hours per day in December to high of 19.0 hours per day in July. Whitehorse enjoys the long hours of the "midnight sun" during the summer.

The weather does not have the extremes fluctuations that people are used to in southern Canada. There is very little precipitation. Whitehorse is considered to be semi-arid. Winter is usually October to end of March with varying amounts of snow. The last two winters have seen unusually high snow fall.