

Church of the Northern Apostles



PARISH PROFILE



**45 Boxwood Cres.
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 4X8
Diocese of Yukon, Anglican Church of Canada**

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Church of the Northern Apostles

Who We Are

The Anglican Church of the Northern Apostles (CNA) was dedicated on October 3, 1987 to serve the Whitehorse community in a neighborhood setting. We are a small parish just off the Alaska Highway in Porter Creek, a suburb of Whitehorse, Yukon (www.facebook.com/Church of the Northern Apostles). Membership and attendance totals had remained consistent for several years with 25-35 members attending regular service during the winter but with numbers dropping off considerably in the summer months. Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020 with public health restrictions to limit gatherings over the past 2 years, we have had about 15 regular in-person attendees. COVID-19 has provided opportunities for us to rethink how we worship and as a result some or many of those who have not attended in person have attended online services (on Facebook). These services have been led by the Incumbents of the Church of the Northern Apostles and the Cathedral, the Bishop and with guest participation from clergy located elsewhere in the Diocese. We have not had Sunday School for the past 2 years as children have not been regularly attending church. Before the pandemic, Sunday school was held from September to May and averaged about 5 children. We have a diverse membership with some lifelong Anglicans and also others who come from other Christian backgrounds. Many parishioners are retired and have active lifestyles that regularly take them away from Northern Apostles.

Where We Are

Whitehorse is the capital city of the Yukon Territory, with a population of about 32,400 and a Territorial population of about 41,400. The city is distributed along the Alaska Highway as a series of neighbourhoods which have been developed to support the growth of the community since the early days of the Klondike Gold Rush in 1898. Whitehorse city centre is located on the banks of the Yukon River, where summer and winter world class events begin and/or end over the course of the year. There are many outdoor activities and adventures available year round for people of all ages, including photography, fishing, walking (lots of trails), hiking, cycling, canoeing, kayaking, hunting, skiing (cross country and downhill) and Northern Lights viewing to name a few. These make Whitehorse and Yukon a tourist destination for people from all over the world. (www.yukon.ca).



Whitehorse, Yukon



Mutual Ministry

For the past 20 years, the Church of the Northern Apostles has functioned as a 'Mutual Ministry' parish. This approach was initially explored and supported by our former Bishop, Terry Buckle, to seek an alternate approach to the more traditional 'Priest Led' parish as a way to provide local leadership and enable ministries in our parish. Funding for a full-time stipendiary ministry was not feasible at that time, nor has it been feasible since then, however our parish has flourished with the gifts our Lord has given to us that manifest within our Mutual Ministry approach.

The following definitions describe Mutual Ministry in general as it is practiced at Northern Apostles:

Total or Mutual Ministry

“Is a way of being intentional about the cooperative relationships between the ministries of all the baptized, in the mission of the church in the world and the ministries of the ordained at the service of that mission. From this have evolved new models of parish ministry involving mutual or total ministry ‘teams’, in a variety of contexts, with the end goal of nurturing the ministries of the baptized.”

(www.anglican.ca) It is also called Circle Ministry.

Mutual Ministry

“A term given to the concept of shared ministry and leadership in a congregation. Mutual ministry is an approach to Christian ministry that is lived out of the promises made in baptism. It sees the ministry of the whole congregation as the primary ministry. All members of the congregation are doers of ministry. Deacons and priests serve as resource and support persons to the congregation, and perform the other duties appropriate to their orders. The work of Roland Allan (1868-1947), an English missionary and parish priest, is the background of mutual ministry. Allan emphasized the training and empowerment of local leadership in the church, the importance of laity, and the use of voluntary clergy.” (www.episcopalchurch.org)

Mutual Ministry Teams

Prior to COVID-19, there were various teams that fulfilled the ministries of the parish, with most continuing during the pandemic except the Social Events group:

- Worship Services and Prayer
- Mission/Outreach
- Administration and Finance
- Pastoral Care
- Social Events/Strengthening Parish Family
- Physical Plant & Use of Church

Paid positions in the parish are the Priest in Charge (paid by the Diocese of Yukon), and snow removal and janitorial services (paid by CNA), with all other ministries provided on a volunteer basis. The following numbers reflect our current situation as follows (please note that some parishioners contribute to more than one Ministry):

- Lay Ministers – 2
- Altar Guild – 3
- Bulletin production -1
- Scripture Readers – 9
- Intercessors – 3
- Envelope Secretary-1
- Treasurer-1
- Wardens – 1 Incumbent's Warden (People's Warden is vacant)
- Music Groups – 1 group with guitar, cello and percussion; 1 group with piano & cello
- [Sunday School – 2 teachers, 1 class during Church Sept – May not since COVID-19]
- Maintenance Coordinator-1
- Vestry – 4 members + Treasurer & Incumbent
- Outreach Committee - 1
- Hall Rentals –1
- Coffee prep Sunday morning -1
- Past Fundraising – garage sales, Christmas Market and Shrove Tuesday pancake supper (pre-COVID)

Ministries in the Parish

There are 3-4 Eucharist services each month, using the Book of Alternative Services. Prior to COVID-19, the first Sunday of the month was a Family Service, where the children remained upstairs and the sermon was written and delivered with focus on the children. Some of the older children were beginning to participate in the activities of the service.

We sing from the red Hymn Book of the Anglican Church of Canada, and the red and purple Maranatha! Music Praise Chorus books as well as using music available through our CCLI License. Services are primarily led by the Priest-in-Charge, with Lay Ministers leading the Morning Prayer service.

Additional ministries include:

- Ecumenical Men's Breakfast group in support of Braeburn Camp – (CNA takes its turn in hosting) Sept – June
- Pastoral Care to Continuing Care is shared between Priest of Northern Apostles and the Dean of the Cathedral in downtown Whitehorse.



A sermon at one of our Family Services

- The Priest in Charge participates in an ecumenical pastoral group at the local hospital
- Lessons & Carols Service
- Christmas Eve Family Service at 7pm (the parish doesn't have a Midnight Service or Christmas Day service, interested parishioners join the Service at the Cathedral)
- Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday services are shared with the Lutheran Church and the Anglican Cathedral downtown
- Good Friday Service – Northern Apostles joins with the Cathedral downtown
- Ecumenical Week of Christian Unity and World Day of Prayer services are usually participated in and occasionally hosted
- Actively support the Anglican Foundation's Kids Helping Kids Fund

- An outdoor Picnic Service is usually held once per year, usually at a local park or campground in the late spring or early summer. In 2017 Northern Apostles joined with St. Phillips in Teslin along with St. Martins of Atlin (BC) for a joint service and picnic, which was well received. There has not been an outdoor picnic since the pandemic started.
- Vacation Bible School has previously been held in conjunction with the Cathedral, however has not taken place since gathering restrictions due to COVID-19.



Enjoying Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner together with parishioners from Christ Church Cathedral

Finances

While we are working towards becoming a self-sustaining parish, we are not there yet. Over the past couple of years we have lost some of our active parishioners to job relocation and retirement relocation. New members have joined us, and we continue to seek and implement opportunities to bring the community into the church through special events, hall rentals and family-oriented services, particularly at Christmas and Easter.

Northern Apostles has met its financial commitment for shared offerings to the Diocese of Yukon consistently over the past 20 years and continues to do so.

Our new Incumbent

What We Seek

Northern Apostles is seeking someone with the following skills, knowledge and attitudes:

- has deep faith in God
- is a good communicator (ie. is approachable, down to earth, speaks plainly and listens well)
- is willing to support the ongoing development of Mutual Ministry within the parish
- has a good sense of humour
- enjoys training and equipping
- bestows confidence in others
- willing to try new ideas
- enjoys leading small study groups
- good administrator
- interested in getting to know the community
- is a 'team-player' with other clergy
- is enthusiastic about growing our congregation

What We Offer

The rectory is situated next door to the church, and is a modern 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home with 2 levels of living space and a single car garage.

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.



The Rectory

Looking Forward

In terms of future needs at Northern Apostles, we offer the following summary of ideas and recommendations from parishioners for future areas of focus:

- Communication between the various ministries and activities needs to be enhanced. Our parish is challenged by many members travelling and being physically away from the parish despite being committed to the parish and various activities.
- Numerical Growth – There needs to be a concerted effort to reach out to the community around us and the nearby developing neighbourhood of Whistle Bend, which is intended to house up to 8000 people when completed over the next few years.

- Youth – As the Sunday School children grow there is a need to develop a ministry for their teen years
- Development of a ministry to seniors as our congregation gets older. There are also several Senior Residences in Whitehorse and the newest care facility is in nearby Whistle Bend, which currently has 150 residents. An expansion of this facility is planned which will also house 150 residents.
- As noted above, due to the pandemic, attendance has dropped off considerably. Those not attending still want to be informed about all that is happening. With reduced attendance comes reduced offerings. There will be a need to reestablish relationships with those who used to attend regularly in person.

