

Parish Profile

St. Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church
Diocese of Yukon
Anglican Church of Canada
P.O. Box 194
Fort Nelson, BC V0C 1R0
Rectory/Chapel/Office location: 5520 53rd St.

Statement of Purpose

To glorify God, as a community of love, in all that we say and do; calling people to faith in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, equipping and releasing them for service, under the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Goals

Short Term

1. To grow and strengthen the congregation through community outreach, targeted communication, ecumenical fellowship, and pastoral care.
2. To support the spiritual growth of the congregation through defining lay ministries, Christian education and worship.

Long Term

1. To establish and support parish programs that target specific ministries such as: music, youth, young families, and seniors.
2. To work towards establishing a 'seven day a week' parish family.

St. Mary Magdalene and the Diocese of Yukon

St. Mary Magdalene's parish has been an integral part of the Diocese of the Yukon since the mid 1950's. While it is geographically the furthest eastern and southern parish of the Diocese (approximately 12 hour drive from Whitehorse), it enjoys being along the Alaska Highway road system; providing year around access to numerous other points of interest. The next closest parish in the Diocese of Yukon is St. John the Baptist in Watson Lake – approximately an 8 hour drive to the northwest. Heading south along the Alaska Highway, approximately 4 hours, one will come upon the thriving city of Fort St. John. Here one will find the closest Anglican parish geographically – St. Martin's, which is part of the Diocese of Caledonia. While St. Mary Magdalene's is relatively isolated from the rest of the Diocese of Yukon, it enjoys a well known collegial relationship to the rest of the Diocese and regular contact with its sister churches by the road system and the convenience of modern communications (i.e., internet and telephone).

The Diocese of Yukon See City is Whitehorse and the Synod office is attached to Christ Church Cathedral – at the corner of 4th Avenue and Elliott Street. The Diocese was founded in 1891, then named the Diocese of Selkirk, and changed to Yukon in 1907. The Diocesan combined parish rolls is 1106; with a total population of 35,000. The Diocese also operates The Bishop's School of Yukon Ministries (BSYM) as it is the vehicle in which all training and professional development occurs within the Diocese. This ministry development program is coordinated by The Rev. Dr. Lee Titterington and its reach extends throughout the Diocese via a developed curriculum of identified fields of study and clergy mentorship. The Diocese has a published journal named 'Northern Lights' and it comes out 3 times a year. Currently there are 10 stipendiary and non-stipendiary active clergy resident within the Diocese and a further 6 retired clergy reside within the Diocese. Most of the active clergy reside in and around Whitehorse.

The Community of Fort Nelson

Fort Nelson is the only municipality located in the vast Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, and is situated at Historic Mile 300 of the Alaska Highway. In a total area comprising of 10% of the province, the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality is home to over 6000 residents, with 4700 residing within Fort Nelson town boundaries. Fort Nelson has a unique seasonal population with industry attracting approximately an additional 2000 people through the winter, and tourism attracting about 320,000 visitors throughout the warmer months (April to September).

Fort Nelson has a long history of being a resource based economy (primarily natural gas) and therefore is very much a 'working town'. This leads to challenges of significant transience within the population.



The population is mostly young and transplanted into Fort Nelson, although there are a considerable number of 'long serving' families and resident seniors. The people living here love their little town and proudly support the many annual community events.



The 'outdoor' experience and winter environment provides opportunities as well as some challenges; but with a full range of services, and multiple recreational and cultural choices, it is a town offering truly unique northern experiences.

Fort Nelson offers a wide range of amenities including: quality accommodation options (hotel/motel, bed & breakfast, camping and RV sites), full assortment of

stores and businesses to satisfy your shopping and service needs, a variety of banks, doctors, dentists and other professional services, recreation facilities (full facility golf course, indoor aquatic centre, bowling alley, tennis courts, arena and curling rink), and cultural and event facilities (museum, performing arts/movie theatre, library).

Fort Nelson transportation options are also complete with daily flight access to Edmonton and Vancouver and Greyhound bus service daily both north and south.

Fort Nelson offers 4 high quality schools; two primary schools (grades K-4), a middle school (grades 5-7), and the high school (grades 8-12), all with a full complement of courses and recreational opportunities.

Along with our own Anglican Church, there is an Alliance Church, United Church, Catholic Church, and Pentecostal Church.



Facilities

Our worship and fellowship times are currently held in the United Church facilities. We have full access to the sanctuary (seats ~60), kitchen/social area (seats ~50), and storage. We are provided full access (assuming there are no United Church events) with a courtesy booking process. St. Mary's is happily renting their space until we build our membership and finances to purchase or build our own facility.

We possess (without mortgage) a 3 bedroom rectory with a full complement of amenities. It is spacious and has 1 and 1/2 bathrooms and a sundeck adjacent to the one car garage. There is a laundry room and storage downstairs with two washing machines and two dryers. The master bedroom is furnished with a king-sized bed. There are other household items in place such as dishes, cutlery, sheets, and towels. There are also various other pieces of furniture (dining table set, spare bed, couch, TV, lamps, etc. There is plenty of storage and both a front and back yard.

In the downstairs of the rectory (St. Mary's Chapel), there is a fully furnished priest's office, a small classroom, full-sized washroom and fully furnished Chapel/meeting room. There is a separate outside entrance to the downstairs which keeps it separate from the living area.

The rectory is situated in a beautiful, established neighborhood with sidewalks and is only a five minute walk from our worship location and all schools/playgrounds.



There is also our original church building which now belongs to the Fort Nelson Historical Society.

The intention is to move the building from its current location, to the Museum site. The hope is that once moved and restored, that this building could be used for special events such as weddings, funerals, and occasional unique services.

Worship

Our parish has people from many different Christian traditions, such as, Anglican, United, Pentecostal, and Lutheran among others, but we find our common identity shaped by an Anglican ethos.



The primary liturgy used is an adapted version of the Holy Eucharist service from the Book of Alternative Services (BAS), facilitating the use of Reserved Sacrament, with once monthly use of Morning Prayer. The inclusion of the 1962 language service is also occasionally used. The method of delivering music is primarily through a digital audio system with a mix of traditional hymns and praise songs. We now have two Praise Leaders who lead the congregation most Sundays with singing, guitar, and percussion. St. Mary's is also pleased that there is increasing use of piano accompaniment for hymns. While adhering to the Anglican liturgy, services are friendly and somewhat casual.



A Children's Time component has traditionally been incorporated into the worship service lead by the worship leadership or laity. When possible we have had a separate Children's Chapel during the regular worship service; and although it recently has been inconsistently attended, and finding leadership a challenge, the parish still believes it to be a desirable aspect to our parish life.

As explained already, we have a very amicable rental agreement with the United Church. They are providing their building to us for worship and fellowship. We worship in a later morning time slot with fellowship time following worship. There are only minor interruptions to this arrangement depending on the needs of the United Church congregation.



Congregational Life

As mentioned before, our parish family consists of members with many different denominational backgrounds. Like the community of Fort Nelson itself, the congregation is a mix of young families, singles and seniors; and we strive to be a family that reflects all stages of life. Important to the culture of the parish, there are members who have only called Fort Nelson, 'home' for a few years; yet we also have members who have been long-time residents, who have a great affinity for the town. Our congregation has averaged 20-25 families in recent years; currently there are 20 households on the parish roles. There are approximately 36 identified "members" and approximately 10 more identified occasional "attendees". The average attendance for Sunday worship in 2009 was 21. Attendance fluctuates a great deal throughout the year. Summer and other long weekend and school breaks sees many families leave the area, which therefore affects attendance.



Program

St. Mary's has, in the past, offered a variety of program options. Most recently some examples of such programs are: bible study (Gospel of Mark), a marriage course, Alpha, and "A Life Worth Living", and "A Purpose Driven Life". In the past there has rarely been a set schedule for programs. Programs have started at any time, as leadership/laity have ideas and feel called to lead.



The Comfort Quilter's are a group of ladies who put their gifts and skills together for the service of Christ in the production of beautiful quilts which are then prayed over and blessed for those to whom they are given.

The parish also has an informal but valuable tradition of frequent potlucks and light luncheons after weekly services, both as times for fellowship and connecting with one another at a meal.

Our Church and Ecumenical events/activities

There are many other activities that St. Mary's have participated in at various points in our recent past. Ecumenical projects, doing the work of Christ in Fort Nelson, are regular occurrences and St. Mary's intends to continue these relationship building activities in the future. A notable event was called "Love Fort Nelson". This event welcomed members from all churches and the idea was to spread the love of Christ with 'no strings attached'. We gave away hotdogs at a busy Saturday location, and displayed positive signs (and enthusiasm!); all to show the community that the churches of Fort Nelson were present in the community and loved the community.



Hospital Ministry is shared with each of the other churches in town. Two months each year St. Mary's takes its turn hosting worship and having the Pastoral Care Team on call for pastoral needs.

Other ecumenical events have included: an annual Good Friday walk through the community, which stops to pray at various key structures of the community, a Christmas Cantata, collection and distribution of food hampers, and shoe box hampers distributed locally and internationally. There have also been opportunities to have joint services with other churches.



St. Mary's has also done a variety of activities on our own. We often have a Lenten project to support different ministries; we currently support a foster child, and in the past provided support for a missionary family in Peru. Just recently we participated in the Amazing Grace Project to support the Council of the North. As well, we have brought our Christmas Eve family service 'into the community' by holding worship at the Town Hall. Vacation Bible School has also been a success in past years gathering both parish children and others from around the community.

Leadership Support

St. Mary's Church has an established leadership (the Ministry Oversight Team--MOT) that takes responsibility (whole or part) for a variety of the ongoing ministries required in daily church life. The MOT currently consists of the Deacon, Rector's and People's Wardens, any Licensed Lay Ministers, and an elected congregational member. This leadership, greatly supported by the rest of the laity, have been trained for various ministries and are aided by a comprehensive document outlining the 'job descriptions' for each ministry under the headings of: Administration, Christian Education, Worship, Pastoral Care, Fellowship, Outreach, Fund Raising, and Ecumenical; along with all relevant forms, contacts, and accounts. Together with this document is a list of leadership and congregation members who have taken on responsibility for each area of ministry. Each member taking responsibility of a ministry is given the 'job description' specific to their ministry. The vast majority of ministries are in the care of one or more congregation members.



Some of the important ministries currently filled and running smoothly include:

- Ministry Oversight Team
- Deacon
- Rector's and People's Wardens
- 3 Licensed Lay Ministers
- 2 Licensed lay administrators (in addition to the Deacon and Lay Ministers)
- Roster Secretary with the following to draw from:
 - Readers (13 households or individuals)
 - Intercessors (6 individuals)
 - Servers (2 individuals)
 - Church cleaning (variety)
 - After church Fellowship (variety)
 - Children's Ministry (Officiant or Preacher)
- 10 member Vestry, (with Treasurer and Secretary positions filled)
- Worship Music Leaders/Preparation (2 individuals aided by officiant and/or preacher)
- Piano accompaniment
- Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage Preparation Teams
- Pastoral Care Team (Deacon assisted by 5 individuals)
- Outreach Coordinators for a variety of projects outlined elsewhere in this document
- After Church Fellowship Coordinators
- Envelope Secretary
- Offering Counters (8 individuals)
- Bulletin Secretary
- Newsletter Editor
- Maintenance Team
- Small Informal Altar Guild
- Telephone communicator for events

Also available as a way of support for the leadership of St. Mary's is the Ministerial Association. This ecumenical group, which is formed by the clergy/leadership from all the denominations, meets together for support in each other's respective ministries, planning and worship.

The members of St. Mary's do not restrain their leadership and outreach opportunities to be just within the church. In the community many members also represent St. Mary's unofficially in such activities as: being a hospital volunteer, volunteering at the museum, helping at the Roman Catholic thrift store, being active in the community Senior's Centre, and being a part of the local school system.

Currently, and for the past many years, our church has had representation to the Diocesan Executive Committee, as well as one member as a representative to the Council of General Synod for a 3 year term.



Finances

Once a self-supporting parish with ongoing outreach ministry, St Mary's has in recent years struggled with parish finances. We believe there to be a variety of factors influencing this trend, including: loss of contributing members, the transient nature of Fort Nelson, the community's loss of major industry, and economic uncertainty. Nonetheless, we are also very much aware there is more we can, and should, do in the ways of personal stewardship (time, talents, and finances), and the building up of the congregation.

The parish has in the recent past been unable to be self-supporting while having a full-time clergy incumbent. The key trend found within St. Mary's most recent financial statements and upcoming year budget (Attachment #1) is reasonable and realistic budget expectations in order to meet expectations. This includes moving to a part-time incumbent and always looking for fund-raising and community building events, which can add to the finances. Among the many ideas circulated, we have committed to and had very successful garage sales in fall and spring. We have also embarked on an active approach to pledging. The statements also show that the Diocese of Yukon has remained supportive of St. Mary's in allowing budgets of reduced commitment.

St. Mary's goal is not only to once again be self-supporting, but to further add to the finances of the Diocese of Yukon and Anglican Church of Canada for their ongoing ministries.

Who are we looking for?

The answer to, "who are we looking for?" is as varied as the people in the congregation; and as such the person called to St. Mary's would possess skills to lead strongly with a loving heart, while at the same time having the ability to reach out relationally and in a pastoral way equally between parish members and the community of Fort Nelson. The godly qualities of a minister as found described in the New Testament, as well as the qualifications and expectations defined in the Constitution and Canons of the diocese, are necessary in this highly visible position within a small community (*Canon 26 "Ministers Exercising Their Ministry/Order and Eligibility for Licensing"*). The parish adheres to biblical orthodoxy and would need a priest who is willing to teach and defend the same. While staying true to their convictions, a priest would need to show understanding to the people of St. Mary's and the community and be sensitive to the needs of all who make the remote north their home.

The parish of St. Mary's is in transition, with a strong desire to be a strong witness for Jesus Christ in Fort Nelson; but without a 'large number of workers' the core members of the congregation are hesitant to try too much. St. Mary's is in need of a pastor with gifts in congregational development, and who can lovingly encourage parishioners to realize their spiritual gifts and be good stewards through their offering of time, talents, and treasures. The parish has also had a vibrant children and youth program in the past and wishes to regain this witness and the exuberant life that comes to a parish with this ministry. With the many pressures of secular life on the community and parishioners, the commitment to congregational life is often put to the test. A priest at St. Mary's would benefit by leading the congregation by example with a missionary heart to the community, while at the same time nurturing leaders from within to the various needs of ministry.

A parish priest in the remote north benefits from good physical health to match the challenging climate and environment. They also need spiritual health with a disciplined prayer life, and an ability to draw close to God in the sometimes isolating times that are the nature of small town life.

Websites relevant to this Profile

<http://www.agathos.com/st.mary/>

<http://anglican.yukon.net/>

<http://www.northernrockies.org/>

<http://www.tourismnorthernrockies.ca/>

<http://www.fortnelsonchamber.com/>

St. Mary Magdalene Home Page

Diocese of Yukon Home Page

Town of Fort Nelson Home Page

Northern Rockies Tourism

Chamber of Commerce

2010 Accepted Budget

	2009 Actual	2010 Accepted Budget
REVENUE		
OPEN OFFERINGS	790	800
ENVELOPE OFFERINGS	46,907	48,000
OTHER REVENUES	1,056	1,200
TOTAL UNDIRECTED REVENUES	48,753	
DIRECTED - BUILDING FUND	175	
DIRECTED WORSHIP		
DIRECTED - OTHER	484	
TOTAL DIRECTED DONATIONS	658	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	52,013	50,000
EXPENSES		
<i>OBLIGATORY EXPENSES</i>		
SHARED OFFERING	11,522	9,580
STIPEND	12,289	14,685
TOTAL DIOCESE EXPENSES	23,811	24,265
WORSHIP SPACE RENTAL	3,000	3,300
ST. MARY'S CHAPEL TELEPHONE	2,781	
OTHER OFFICE EXPENSES	45	100
ST. MARY'S CHAPEL GAS EXPENSE	2,147	
ST. MARY'S CHAPEL HYDRO EXPENSE	482	
ST. MARY'S CHAPEL WATER AND SEWER E	598	
ST. MARY'S CHAPEL UTILITIES EXPENSE	130	
ST. MARY'S CHAPEL PROPERTY TAX EXPE	2,649	
ST. MARY'S CHAPEL MAINTENANCE	1,327	
ST. MARY'S CHAPEL INSURANCE	1,813	
TOTAL CHAPEL HOUSING COSTS	11,972	13,000
TOTAL OBLIGATORY EXPENSES	38,783	40,565
<i>PURPOSE DRIVEN EXPENSES</i>		
SERVICE SUPPLIES	1,323	
PHOTOCOPIES		
MUSIC & LITURGY MATERIALS	231	
INTERDENOMINATIONAL WORSHIP/EVENTS		
TOTAL WORSHIP EXPENSES	1,554	1,400
MINISTER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND		
MINISTRY EXPENSES - GLOBAL	486	525
MINISTRY EXPENSES - LOCAL	519	500
PROGRAMS		500
TOTAL MINISTRY EXPENSES	1,005	1,525
ADVERTISING EXPENSE	13	500
TOTAL EVANGELISM EXPENSES	13	500
COFFEE & CLEANING EXPENSES	112	150
SOCIAL EVENTS	171	150
TOTAL FELLOWSHIP EXPENSES	283	300
RETREATS?WORKSHOP	472	
TOTAL DISCIPLESHIP EXPENSES	472	
<i>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</i>		
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES		
UNSPENT MINISTER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND		
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
<i>OFFSETS</i>		
BUILDING FUND TRANSFER		
TOTAL OFFSETS		
TOTAL EXPENSES	44,710	44,390
EXCESS (SHORTFALL)	7,302	5,610