

# Northern Lights

#155

*The Journal of the  
Anglican Diocese of  
Yukon  
Winter 2009*



*Christmas Greetings from Yukon!*

# Thank you for Praying



Day 1 & 16

Parish of Whitehorse: Christ Church Cathedral.  
The Ven. Dr. Sean Murphy; The Rev. David Pritchard & family; Rev. Martin Carroll, Ruth Carroll & family; Licensed Lay Ministers-in-Training: Gaya Tiedeman, Beverley Whitehouse, Elsa Cheeseman, Anne Bernard

Day 2 & 17

Fort Nelson: St. Mary Magdalene.  
Toad River, Alaska Highway, mile 150-506  
The Rev. Dn. Don Thompson, Lana Thompson and family; Licensed Lay Ministers: Glen Gough, Jeanie Arvor and Mark Tudor

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. The Rev. David Pritchard and family  
Teslin: St. Philips  
The Most Rev. Terry Buckle and the Ministry Team

Day 5 & 20

Communities of: Carmacks & Keno,

Day 6 & 21

Atlin: St. Martin.  
The Rev. Dn. Vera Kirkwood & family.  
Licensed Lay Minister: Dorothy Odian.

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 Most Rev. Terry Buckle and Lay Ministry Team

Day 9 & 24

Parish of Whitehorse:  
Church of the Northern Apostles.  
The Ven. Dr. Sean Murphy (Archdeacon of Liard)  
The Rev. Dn. Sarah Usher, Len Usher & family

Day 10 and 25

Mayo: St. Mary with St. Mark.  
The Rev. Susan Titterington and the Lay Ministry Team  
Pelly Crossing: St. James the Lord's Brother.  
Licensed Lay Minister: Betty Joe.

Day 11 & 26

Dawson City: St. Paul's. Moosehide: St. Barnabas.  
The Klondike Creeks; The Dempster Hwy.  
The Rev. Dr. Lee Titterington, The Rev. Dn. Percy Henry. The Ven. Ken Snider (Honorary Assistant) and Aldene Snider. Licensed Lay Ministers: Mabel Henry; Shirley Pennell, Betty Davidson.

Day 12 & 27

Old Crow: St. Luke's.  
The Rev. Susan Titterington, The Rev. Dn. Marion Schafer, Esau Schafer & family. and Lay Ministry Team.

Day 13 & 28

The Rev. Dn. Sarah Usher: Diocesan Administrative Officer.  
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:  
Elsa Cheeseman:  
Diocesan ACW President: Gloria Hockley and all ACW members.

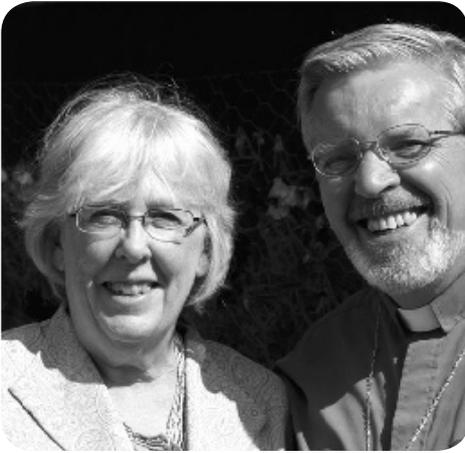
Day 15 & 30

Those retired from Missionary Service:  
The Rev. Dorothy Thorpe.  
The Rev. Bruce Aylard & Audrey Aylard.  
The Rev. Don Sax & The Rev. Dn. Lee Sax.  
The Rev. Dr. Ellen Bruce OM.  
The Ven. Ken and Aldene Snider.  
The Rev. Geoffrey & Rosalind Dixon  
The Rev. Canon David & Alice Kalles  
The Ven. John & The Rev. Dn. Carol Tyrrell  
The Rev. Fred & Marcia Carson.  
The Very Rev. Peter & Barbara Williams  
Marion Carroll.  
The Rev. Mary & Lino Battaja  
Licensed Lay Minister: Edith Josie.

Day 31 and daily:

The Most Rev. Terry Buckle, Blanche Buckle & family.

## Our Bishop Writes.....



As I look back I greatly value the trust that was extended to me when I was elected Bishop of Yukon in 1995 and again when I was elected Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon. Now that I prayerfully prepare with my wife Blanche to move on in the journey ahead in new ministry adventure I pray that my remaining months as Bishop of Yukon will serve our Lord's purpose well.

I am deeply grateful for the many people that prayerfully and financially support the Diocese of

Dear Diocese of Yukon Friends:

**W**e again approach the season of Advent and Christmas and we are at this season of the church year reminded of the necessity of personal readiness for "the coming". We watch the news and we wonder. There is so much that causes us concern in the world of today but what of the world of tomorrow? "How long O Lord?" the Psalmist asks. We too wait and wonder. We rejoice in the faithfulness of God and prepare to worship him in the awareness of his coming kingdom in all its fullness.

As we enter a new church year we in the Diocese of Yukon enter upon a time of challenge and possible change. We seek to be responsive to our Lord's call to possible new mission incentives as prayerful consideration is presently being given to partner in mission adventure with the Diocese of the Arctic. We also prayerfully plan for a time of new leadership in our diocese for in the year ahead, God willing, a new bishop will be chosen to serve with the people of our diocesan family.

Yukon. God has blessed us through them in wonderful and encouraging ways. I give God thanks for those with whom I serve in this diocese. They are a blessing to me by their committed Christian service in Yukon communities. I thank God for all our people in our scattered little congregations. God bless them.

So we press on here in Yukon to be faithful to the One who has called us knowing again at the beginning of another season of anticipation and hope that he is faithful, absolutely faithful. He is to us, again in the words of the Psalmist, "my (our) strength and my (our) song." And you too, press on in faithfulness to our Lord in the anticipation and hope of His coming.

Love, joy, peace and hope in Jesus our Lord this Advent and Christmas Season to all of you. God bless you and keep you.

Bishop of Yukon

# Summertime is "VBS TIME"!! Wildwood Forest Adventure

After months of planning and weeks of prayer and preparation, the Church of St. Paul's in Dawson City was transformed into the Wildwood Forest and 17 intrepid adventurers between the ages of 4 and 10, eagerly began 4 days of Bible exploration at our 2nd Vacation

Bible School. What fun was had by all - music, games, drama, crafts, sports, videos - you name it there was something there for everyone. Under the direction of Rev Lee and Rev Susan Titterington, the gang at St. Paul's strung lights, wrote out songs and Bible verses, painted and

nativity story were acted out, sung and danced about, eaten, and crafted. The interactive dramas were well received and some of the boys were even caught dancing and singing.

Then after everything was over in Dawson, all the VBS materials were taken down, rolled up and driven to Mayo and re-erected at the Mayo Recreation Centre for another fun filled experience. Many had left to catch the fish which were running in the river; the temperature was +33°C. It was too hot to play outside, but the centre was air conditioned (yes!) and word got around that something exciting was happening.



cut out bugs, trees, vines, and ladders, hung up many, many leaves, erected a tent, and plotted scavenger hunts, all with the intent of sharing God's love and teachings with young people. Bible stories about Gideon, Elijah, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and the



continued from previous page

After low numbers the first day, attendance just got better and better, till the last day when we had 5 eager young people. What a joy it is to share your faith with young people who are interested in learning about God's love for them.

## Dawson City ACW Get Involved in VBS

The ladies of St. Paul's ACW in Dawson City spent weeks preparing for the summer Vacation Bible School. Snacks were made each day, crafts were prepared, dramas planned, and music learned. What great fun it is to work for the Lord!

*Joyce with children at Dawson City VBS*

*Evelyn in Action*



### ACW National Conference in Western Newfoundland

*L to R: Gloria Hockley, Lauren Pidgen (PEI), Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Heather Carr, Past National President at National ACW Conference in Western Nfld.*



### BC/Yukon Presidents at National ACW Conference in Western Nfld:

*L to R: Chris Broad, Mother's Union rep, Gloria Hockley, Mary McIntyre, Barb Coleman.*



## Return to Eagle

### Rev. Dr. Lee

*In the previous edition of Northern Lights, readers were introduced to a natural disaster in Eagle, Alaska. Flooding and ice flows destroyed a small Episcopal First Nation village. This article recounts what happened when Rev. Lee Titterington visited the community after the floodwaters subsided.*

As the boat rounded the river bend, where previously there had been a dozen buildings stretched along the river bank, I was struck by two things. First of all, there was no sign that human habitation had ever existed on this site. The river banks had been scoured away and what was once perhaps 8 meters of very steep bank had been chiseled to half that depth.

It was like gigantic bulldozers had put down their blades and removed any sign of the buildings; which is in effect exactly what happened. Although instead of metal machines, ice chunks the size of large trucks had functioned in precisely the same way to tear away the river bank and push the homes, church and old school building cleanly away and then crumple them like trash.

The second thing I noticed was the lack of people.

Usually as you pulled into this stretch of river, you would see children playing in their yards, or people walking between their homes, or people working in their gardens. This was a living, vibrant community; a community I was honored to serve for the past four years as their traveling priest.

But what I had known seemed to be gone. No people and no buildings, just raw earth.

So as I prepared to step off the boat, I wasn't sure what I might experience. The US Customs Agent noticed (it was hard not to) my large pack and asked why I was coming into town. When I told him I was the Anglican priest and that I had come to help the Episcopal community, he thanked me saying, "God bless you."

As I stepped off the boat an old truck pulled up and a young Episcopalian First Nations man I have got to know quite well stepped out. "Welcome



# Eagle, Alaska Titterington



home,” he said. “We missed you.” That feeling of being part of this community infused everything that happened in the visit. I was given the use of a truck and spent much of the time visiting people in the new village being assembled. For although the old village is gone and cannot be rebuilt on the river bank because of the damage; people are looking forward. Those that were displaced by the flood and ice are living with friends and new homes will be built. I slept in their community center, because they wanted me close to where they were. I went from home to home and offered healing prayer, counseling or sometimes just someone who could listen. In my honor, a community barbeque was arranged. Several people thanked me (although I had nothing to do with it) for a chance to laugh and have fun. “It had been so long since we could come together.” Communion on Sunday morning was in the community center. No prayer or hymn books (those were destroyed); we used copies of music and a bulletin of the BCP service, which I had brought with me. No altar, but a cloth placed over a picnic table. The singing was slightly off key with no musical accompaniment but nobody cared. We were there to praise and worship God. All the people who were in the village came to receive Communion. People went down on their knees with tears in

their eyes because Communion is so important to them. I was told later that it had been a year since they have had Communion and this was the first since the flood. Their belongings were gone but their faith is strong. At one point, I walked along the ground where the homes used to be and found a small cross on a beaded necklace, which had been buried. I was able to track down who the cross belonged to and gave it back. The tears of joy from this small act made my trip worthwhile. They know Jesus walks with them and they know they will get through any crisis, with God’s help. I learned a lot in this visit. I learned about the resilience of people and faith in the face of adversity. I learned about what is and what is not important. Community is not our buildings. Although most of us know this on an intellectual level, perhaps it takes being placed in the aftermath of a disaster to know it on an emotional level. Community is the people who live and worship together.

Peace on  
Earth

# *My Childhood Dream Comes True in Yukon*

*Laurie Munroe*

**H**ow does one explain how it feels to have a childhood dream come true? As long as I can remember I have felt drawn to the Yukon. I must have heard some stories while growing up in New Westminster that planted some idealized images of beautiful mountains and strong people. It took half a lifetime and pursuing an education at Wycliffe College in Toronto to finally open the door for me to get here. After a whirlwind flight to Penticton and three-day drive I walked into the Cathedral office to meet my first Yukoners and it has been an amazing journey since then.

During my time here I have been blessed to take part in services in five different Anglican churches. Each has been a unique experience that I wouldn't have missed for the world. Getting to visit people in homes, care facilities, businesses, restaurants and agencies, and traveling between Whitehorse, Teslin, Carcross, and Haines Junction has simply shown me that those childhood images were really true. I've met many wonderful people and seen scenery beyond anything I had imagined. As one person said to me, God must truly love the Yukon.

The difficulty now is finding a way to say goodbye. I have no way to express the gratitude I feel to Archbishop Terry for inviting me to come here, or to Archdeacon Sean for the time he has spent as my supervisor, or Rev. David and Rev. Dn. Sarah for all their input. In addition, there are all the people who

have provided support, encouragement, and learning opportunities that will benefit me wherever I go. I thank each and every one of you, and pray that God will continue to bless you in all ways. I now know what people mean when they say that they leave a part of their heart behind. Part of mine will always be here.



### ***Rev. Ben & Nancy Hall:***

Just before this issue was completed, we received news that the Rev. Ben Hall and his wife, Nancy passed away within twelve days of each other in November. They served in the diocese for a number of years, and some of their family still live in Yukon. We extend our condolences and prayers to Andy Hall and Sarah Usher and their siblings and families at this time. There will be more in the Spring issue about their life and ministry.

### ***From the Editor:***

My husband joins me in sending you our greetings in the Name of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. We are in Uganda again for a three month term so this magazine was prepared and edited from the "Pearl of Africa" for the second year.

As we approach the Christmas season may you know the joy and peace that comes from knowing Jesus, the Saviour of the world.

*Rosalind C. Dixon*

**NEWS**

**NEWS**

**NEWS**

*Visitors to Yukon*



**T**homas and Cheryl Brauer visited his father in Whitehorse this summer. Michael is a member of Christ Church Cathedral (the maintenance person who keeps the ‘plant’ running) and Thomas is a Priest from the Diocese of Edmonton who is church planting there in a unique way, reaching out to people through the arts. Thomas, his wife and father are pictured here with Archbishop Terry.

**S**andra & Robert Fairweather, and their grand-daughter Jasmine of New Brunswick also visited Yukon this summer – The Fairweather’s come to Yukon to visit their daughter and son-in-law and while here attend Christ Church Cathedral. A couple of years ago they happened to be in Whitehorse at the time of the annual Christmas Bazaar and both helped out at that event. This visit (July 2009) Sandra brought quite a number of hand knit socks for the bazaar this year. Thanks so much Sandra.



*More news on page 11*



**O**n January 17th, 2010 there will be a 50th Anniversary Celebration to celebrate the building of the present Christ Church Cathedral. This building was opened in 1960. For more information contact the Diocese of Yukon.

***Women’s Conference***

***April, 2010***

to be held at

Christ Church Cathedral  
Whitehorse

Theme: Women in Mission

Speaker:

Archbishop Terry Buckle

All women of the diocese are welcome to attend.

More information in the Spring issue of Northern Lights



## ***St. Mary's is Changing, But Still Here Doing God's Work!***

### ***Glen Gough***

Changes abound everywhere and all the time, and nobody knows that more than the St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church family in Fort Nelson. In the last four years there have been three different priests (four if you count the priest who chose to return after a one year absence!). The Church has also sold its church building, bought a new Church House, and has worshipped in three different places. Should I continue...we have also ordained a Deacon; once again are without a priest, and instead have three Licensed Lay Ministers to provide support in leadership. Change can be difficult, but it can also be a blessing. The changes St. Mary's have gone through have been disruptive, nobody can argue that; but the changes have also allowed a bonding of our church family in a way that may not have been possible without those changes.

Many are aware that our last priest was not an individual but a husband and wife team. The Revs. Dawn McDonald and Neville Critchlow were here for one year with their main ministry priority being to train members of the congregation to lead the parish without a priest. They not only trained some worship leaders, they trained an entire congregation to take up their Baptismal obligation and participate in every aspect of ministry that any church undertakes. On the last Sunday of August we worshipped together for the last time with many tears, hugs, prayers, and jokes of

them coming back for a third time!! As we sent them away with prayers, onto their new adventures in Florida, the Holy Spirit was certainly there empowering Dawn and Neville as well as the congregation as we faced a new reality of our ministry in Fort Nelson and beyond.

Just the week before, Archbishop Terry visited the parish. It was as if he was there to close one chapter and open a new one, and at the same time was giving Dawn and Neville an appreciative pat on the back for a job well done; the Archbishop licensed three Lay Ministers (Jeanie Arva, Mark Tudor and Glen Gough) to work alongside our recently ordained Deacon Don Thompson. These four make up what we call the Ministry Oversight Team. This team takes on the role of worship leaders, administer communion (from reserved sacrament), and ensures that all the ministries of a church are available to the parish and community.

Thanks to Dawn and Neville and a great deal of hard work from the parish members, we now have teams in place to prepare people for baptism, confirmation, and couples for marriage. We have people equipped for pastoral care, grief support, and outreach projects. We have Bible and Book studies ongoing and Alpha due to begin in January 2010. We have regular fellowship times such as the Comfort Quilters after church each Sunday, and

## NEWS News News



### **Watson Lake Thrift Shop Continues to Thrive.**

The Thrift Shop at St. John the Baptist Anglican Church in Watson Lake has been serving the community for forty years. The Thrift Shop is the only outlet in town that has a full line of children's clothing (apart from the Sears Catalogue!!)

The dedicated group of people who run the Thrift Shop is grateful to the community for the many donations that are given.

#### ***From Fort Nelson to Florida!***

The Rev. Dawn McDonald and her husband, the Rev. Neville Critchlow have moved to warmer climes! Instead of being bundled up and shovelling the sidewalk, Dawn is not getting a tan while weeding her garden! Dawn and Neville request prayer for meaningful

#### ***St. Mary's is Changing, continued from previous page***

many other opportunities being planned throughout the year. We have members of our church stepping up to do every big and little thing necessary for our church to run smoothly and enable it to be a witness to the community of Fort Nelson.

When you walk through the door on Sunday, it is just as welcoming, just as worshipful, just as caring as we have always been...priest or no priest!

You may have thought St. Mary



employment and the Lord's direction regarding the Zaccheus ministry. The book Dawn is working on will soon be completed.

The Rev. Dn. Don Thompson, a long time Fort Nelsonner will be assuming responsibility for the parish. Please remember them in your prayers.



Magdalene Anglican Church would go away because we did not have full-time clergy, or because we have had so many changes; but we assure you we are very much a part of our community, our Diocese and the Christian family, ready to praise God at every opportunity!

You can contact the St. Mary's by phone at 250-774-6427 or by email at [FortNelsonAnglican@gmail.com](mailto:FortNelsonAnglican@gmail.com)



### **DEADLINE**

*For the Spring issue of Northern Lights  
will be February 20, 2010*



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.

Subscriptions: \$10 or greater donation per year (3 issues per year)

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