

Northern Lights

163

The Journal of the
Anglican Diocese of
Yukon
Summer 2012



Women in Ministry

*Thank you for
Praying*

Day 1 & 16**Whitehorse: Christ Church Cathedral.**

The Ven. Dr. Sean Murphy; The Rev. David Pritchard & family; Rev. Martin Carroll, Ruth Carroll & family; Licensed Lay Minister: Beverley Whitehouse.

Day 2 & 17**Fort Nelson: St. Mary Magdalene. Toad River, Alaska Highway, Mile 150-506**

The Rev. Don & Lana Thompson and family; Ida & Terry Reid & family. Licensed Lay Ministers: Glen Gough, Jeanie Arva and Mark Tudor

Day 3 & 18**Watson Lake: St. John the Baptist; Lower**

Post, Swift River, Telegraph Creek: St. Aidan; Dease Lake; Glenora. The Rev. Rob Langmaid & Monica Langmaid; 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 Rev. Sarah Usher and the Ministry Team

Day 5 & 20: Communities of: Carmacks & Keno.**Day 6 & 21: Atlin: St. Martin.** The Rev. 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: Lynn de Brabandere and the Ministry Team

Day 9 & 24**Whitehorse: Church of the Northern Apostles.**

The Rt. Rev. Larry Robertson, Sheila Robertson, The Most Rev. Terry Buckle, Blanche Buckle, The Rev. Sarah Usher, Len Usher & family

Day 10 and 25**Mayo: St. Mary with St. Mark. Pelly**

Crossing: St. James the Lord's Brother. Keno City: All Saints

The Rev. Stephen Martin, Michelle Martin & family and the Lay Ministry Team; Licensed Lay Minister: Betty Joe.

**Day 11 & 26****Dawson City: St. Paul's. Moosehide:****St. Barnabas; The Klondike Creeks; The****Dempster Hwy.** The Rev. Laurie Munro,

The Rev. Percy Henry. The Ven. Ken Snider (Hon. Asst.) and Aldene Snider. Licensed Lay Ministers: Mabel Henry; Shirley Pennell, Betty Davidson.

Day 12 & 27**Old Crow: St. Luke's.**

The Rev. Laurie Munro, The Rev. Marion Schafer, Esau Schafer & family and Lay Ministry Team

Day 13 & 28

The Rev. Sarah Usher: Diocesan Administrative Officer; Members of the Diocesan Executive Committee; Diocesan Prayer Partner: Diocese of Fredericton.

Day 14 & 29

Patti Tettichi, Yukon Apostolate: Bishop's School of Yukon Ministries.

PWRDF Diocesan Representative: Betty Davidson

Diocesan ACW President: Evelyn McDonald 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 & Deacon Lee Sax.

The Ven. Ken and Aldene Snider.

The Rev. Geoffrey & Rosalind Dixon.

The Rev. Canon David & Alice Kalles.

The Ven. John & Deacon Carol Tyrrell.

The Rev. Fred & Marcia Carson.

The Very Rev. Peter & Barbara Williams.

Marion Carroll.

The Rev. Mary & Lino Battaja.

The Most Rev. Terry and Blanche Buckle

Day 31 and daily:

The Rt. Rev. Larry Robertson, Sheila Robertson & family.

A Message from the Bishop



“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.” (Psalm 19:1 KJV)

Dear friends:

May the blessings of our Creator’s love dwell with you and your family this season.

As I travel through the Diocese, I am awestruck by its beauty; from the mirror-glass reflection of Atlin Lake to the mountains and valley as viewed from the Dome in Dawson City; from the shores of Lake LaBarge to the life that bursts forth from the many burns along the highway, God declares his glory, beauty and power. It is a privilege and honour to travel this land and to see the reflection of our God in it.

I see the reflection of God in the people of the Yukon as well. Last year alone, we raised over forty thousand dollars to help the hungry of Africa. I was amazed at the hard work of many and the generous gifts of all those who gave. It truly reflects the love and generosity of our Creator. I see the concern for the needy and homeless through the ministry of the various Thrift Shops in the parishes. And I see it again through special efforts such as the lunches of Christ Church Cathedral to raise money to build a home for a widow and her family in Swaziland, Africa, so very far away. These actions reflect the

concern and love of our God.

As we enter the Fall, we draw close to our Diocesan Synod in October. The theme of the Synod is “Getting Back to Basics”. Sometimes in our business of serving God and his people we can get so wrapped up in buildings, assessment and financial commitments (all important things) that we forget the more basic reasons we are here. We sometimes forget that what God really wants is for His children to love and serve Him and that is reflected through loving and serving His people.

During this Synod we will be asked to think and possibly make decisions that could very well make changes to our Diocese. We will look at new ways to tell our story and new ways to allow others to share in the ministry of the Diocese of Yukon. I hope that much of the information will be put up on our Diocesan Web page so please keep checking it out. Let your parish representative know any thoughts you have regarding the issues and any issues you want discussed. They will then pass it on to the Diocesan office. Please keep the Diocesan Synod in your prayers and remember, as always, observers are welcome at the meetings.

In closing, I want to share one of the events of the Diocesan Synod. We are asking that the parishes bring with them a series of pictures that display the ministry of that parish: Pictures of services, choirs, special events, thrift shops, care facilities, and other events or ministries which are appropriate. We will display these at Synod and then use them later to tell the story of the Diocese of Yukon.

“The heavens declare the Glory of God”, may we reflect God’s glory in our lives, in our words, in our actions and in our thoughts. And when people come in contact with us may they see the reflection of our living Creator in us.

Blessings,

Bishop Larry

“Why Are We Here?”

In the two years that I have been the Bishop of Yukon I have been asked this question in one form or another several times. The people asking may have put it in terms of “Governance”, or “Financial viability”, or “numbers of stipendiary clergy”. No matter how they have phrased it, what was meant was “Why is the Diocese of Yukon in existence?”

I may not like it; nevertheless this is a good question. After all, there are those that say we are the smallest Diocese in Canada; we have very few stipendiary clergy; and we are not financially stable. So why do we continue to exist? Why not just close down as some Dioceses have done or are talking about doing?

In order to answer that question we need to know why we were formed in the first place. Why did the National Church see the need to create the Diocese of Yukon? I think knowing the answer to this question will help us to answer the question “Why do we exist today?” or maybe a more relevant question is “Should we continue to exist today?” I

have heard at least three Bishops say “I will be the last Bishop of my Diocese”. Should I be making this statement? To date, I have not.

We began as the Diocese of Selkirk. Our first Bishop was Bishop Bompas. The Diocese of Selkirk was formed when a much bigger Diocese divided into two Dioceses. (The Diocese of Selkirk’s name was later changed to Diocese of Yukon. Because of its familiarity I will

use Diocese of Yukon when referring to the Diocese). Why did this happen? Let’s begin with some of the issues that were not involved.

First, the Diocese of Yukon did not form because it was financial viable. The Diocese has never been self supporting in its history. It has always been supported from “Outside”. This was not a consideration when it was formed.

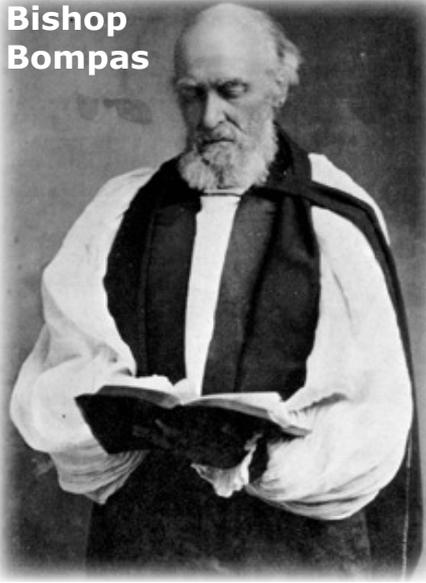
Second, it was not a question of having enough clergy to properly minister to the people here. When Bishop Bompas took the position of Diocesan Bishop, he had two other ordained clergy, less ordained clergy than I do now.

Bishop Bompas was not needed to organize all the ordained clergy running around in the Yukon 1891.

However, the Diocese was formed because of “Governance” issues. History tells us that the Yukon was part of the Diocese of Athabasca of which Bompas became Bishop in 1874, eight years after his ordination and serving all of those years in the Yukon.

The Diocese of Athabasca was massive, taking up much of western Canada. Very quickly it was shown to be unmanageable for one bishop. In 1884 the Diocese of the Mackenzie River was carved out of Athabasca. Bompas chose to become the bishop of this Diocese. This Diocese was much smaller, about the size of the present Yukon, NWT, much of northern BC and parts of Nunavut. But even this was too big to manage so in 1891 the

**Bishop
Bompas**



Diocese of Selkirk (Yukon) was formed. It encompassed the current boundaries of the Yukon Territory, but very quickly, even at this time, there was a gentlemen's agreement that Bompas would visit some of Northern BC when he could.

In C.A. Cody's biography of Bompas, *An Apostle of the North*, he says that the reason for the downsizing of the Diocese each time was to allow for better Episcopal oversight. Bompas took seriously the role of bishop as "chief shepherd" and to him that meant the ability to visit and be with his people. The reason for the downsizing of Athabasca and Mackenzie River Dioceses and the formation of the Diocese of Yukon in 1891 was so that the Bishop could reasonably visit his people each year and be the "Chief Shepherd" that he was called to be.

The Diocese of Yukon has always made do with what we've had. There has probably never been enough money or manpower to properly minister as any bishop would like. Some years are better than others. We in the North have learned to be adaptable. The common factor that has held the Anglican Church together in the Yukon has been the presence of the Bishop. Clergy come and go. Financial funds also fluctuate drastically. The one stable factor has been the presence of the Bishop and his ability to visit, teach, encourage, sympathize, mourn, cry and laugh with his people.

Currently, as Bishop I am able to visit most of the parishes in the Diocese at least once, and many twice, a year and still make my commitments to the National and Provincial Churches. Because I am in a central location in the Diocese I am able to spend time teaching, visiting, and celebrating with the people. The parish farthest away is only a twelve hour drive. Then there is Old Crow, to which I must fly.

The question is "Could a bishop from another Diocese care for the parishes

of the Yukon?". My honest answer is that they could not or would not be able to give the same level of care with the same finances that a bishop living in the Diocese can and does. Now let me explain.

- Of the 16 active parishes, only three are accessible by air. A bishop on the outside would have to fly to Whitehorse or Dawson City and then drive. This would mean renting or leasing a vehicle. I drive my own car and the mileage costs are far less than leasing or renting. Travel costs would increase dramatically unless the bishop decided not to travel as much and therefore not give the level of care currently given.

- It is highly unlikely, even if he wanted to, that a bishop who had the responsibilities of another Diocese could give the same level of visits and care currently given.

- The resident Bishop of Yukon is highly accessible to all. My office and home numbers are accessible to all. The Bishop's office is centrally located and people feel free to drop into the office to talk. The Bishop's residence is large and clergy and their families are welcome. I understand that this is not the norm in other Dioceses.

- Because he is centrally located, the bishop can be involved in many of the church and community events at a very limited cost.

- Because the Bishop is centrally located his administrative help is also centrally located and understands the peculiar problems in the north that are not present in the south.

Why is the Diocese of Yukon in existence? We are here because this is still the best format both financially and pastorally that we can use to reach out and minister to the people of the Yukon and northern BC. Any other format that I have seen would mean a lessening of spiritual and pastoral care for the people of the Yukon. This is why the Diocese of Yukon still exists and will continue to exist.



The Cup of Life

Six women from Whitehorse signed up for a weekend retreat in Haines Junction, led by Lynn De Brabandere. We had no idea what was in store for us, but it seemed like a great idea, something that had been talked about for a while. We just never seemed to have an individual who had the energy to put it together and kudos go to Lynn.

We arrived Friday evening, to a backdrop only God could have put there, the incredible St. Elias Mountains. We gathered in the basement of the church, where we learned a little about what would be taking place over the weekend and then were taken to our accommodation in the Rectory, where we were all able to be housed under the same roof, which made things comfortable. The Rectory was designated as a “Quiet” place where there was time for relaxation and spiritual reflection. With the view of the mountains from Lynn’s living room window, I personally didn’t need much else. We headed back to the church for a while that evening, to join in on some chants and to share why we had each chosen the

cup we had. Lynn had put together an excellent program for us, but made it flexible to suit our needs. It was a weekend to share and be with like-minded people, giving us time out of our busy lives to be able to give ourselves time with God, and make us realise that we really do need each other to help us in our individual faith journey.

The whole set-up seemed to work really well. The church was just the right size for our small group to do our sharing and worship, the basement was where we ate all our meals and worked on our crafts. The Rectory was close enough for us to be able to go back and forth as we felt the need for personal space.

During the two days the program gave us time to also learn about drawing and painting with acrylics on canvas, and making a journal. There was time for walks and a few of us made the journey to Sheep Mountain where we saw lots of ewes but no lambs, even though we had been told they had been born that week. Our last sharing session we were asked to let go of some of our stresses in life

and to count our blessings, our cups were used for this, hence the "Cup of Life". To finish off the evening, we played a "Word" game, lots of fun and laughter, we were all winners.

On Sunday morning Bishop Larry came out to St. Christopher's for a Eucharist service and delivered the sermon. A member of the congregation played guitar and taught us some different hymns. An overhead projector was used for the words which made it much easier to follow. The readings and psalm were shared between both the Whitehorse and Haines Junction congregations.

After church everyone was invited to the basement for fellowship and lunch before we all went our separate

ways. The weekend had triggered many thoughts which made for interesting discussion on the way home.

A big "Thank You" goes to Marty, who gave up her whole weekend to cater for us. We certainly didn't go hungry; every meal was delicious and all home made, I'd recommend her restaurant any time, she has set high standards for our next get-together.

I think I can speak for the group, that we all enjoyed our time together and would like to be able to do this type of gathering more often.

Submitted by *Carole Laurie*
Church of the Northern Apostles

Church of the Northern Apostles - Church Picnic



Pancake time at St. Paul's



To raise money to pay for our new wood stove and oil heaters (see p. 13), St. Paul's has been holding Pancake Breakfasts for Canada Day (the day before) and the Discovery Day weekend. We have to rent the hall at St. Mary's to hold all the people.

Fund Raising for Haiti

The Youth Group of Northern Apostles raised money for the project in Haiti. They raised this money with the February soup lunch at Northern Apostles. The Vestry of CNA matched the funds they raised and then added the proceeds from the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Thanks girls for all your work!



Youth Group of Northern Apostles Sleepover

The Youth Group of Northern Apostles enjoys their breakfast after a sleepover at the Church. They look bright eyed after a rather long night! The adult chaperones will need a few months to recoup before attempting another one!



The girls did crafts; worked on a skit to be presented to the congregation; had good chats about their faith journey; and, as at any good Anglican function – ate!

Haley Wilson



Here is our Summer Archivist Student Haley Wilson with her first Yukon fish! Haley is from Guelph, ON and has been busy in the Diocesan office working on an archival deposit. It has been a pleasure having Haley with us this summer and she has been able to get a huge chunk of work done for us. Thanks Haley!

OPERATION OVERBOARD



“Operation Overboard” was the theme of this summer’s Vacation Bible School at St. Paul’s in Dawson City.



Elders and Youth helped to prepare for this event. More photos on page 15.

Not Alone 7 - May 4-6, 2012

by Betty Davidson

The concept of a camp for young Christian people originated 7 years ago between the Dawson Community Gospel Chapel and Riverdale Baptist Church, as an attempt to provide fellowship. The Not Alone event is held at the Marsh Lake Bible Camp, owned and operated by the Whitehorse Baptist Church.

The Diocese of Yukon became part of this venture in 2007. Other Churches in Whitehorse have been invited to participate and the Church of the Nazarene, Pentecostal, and Whitehorse Baptist Churches have been involved to a greater or lesser degree.

Three chaperones went from Dawson City this year. Maria Nyland represented the Dawson Community Chapel and 6 young people registered through her. I went from St. Paul's Anglican Church and 7 young people registered through me, with 1 from Mayo. Two mothers took young people, so four cars travelled to Not Alone 7 this year. The Church of the Northern Apostles sent a young delegate who was in my cabin. The trip too and from Marsh Lake was lots of fun and we all had a great time.

The Not Alone 7 was anchored by the

youth band, and all the talks at the chapel began and ended with Contemporary Praise music, much clapping

and free movement. The speaker this year was Chris Throniss, an Alliance Church youth pastor from Vancouver. He was also mentoring a youth pastor trainee, Cameron Dailly. His four talks were based on 4 of the I am statements in John - I am the way, the truth and the life, I am the Good Shepherd, I am the living water, I am the Vine. There was time set aside in the cabins for reflective questions on his talk or any other issues

The camp also included lots of sports, and breakaway sessions of whittling, geocaching, soccer, drama, and crafts. Chris also had a Q&A session for those wanting to talk directly with him.

It was an exciting weekend, with many young people encountering Christ on a personal level for perhaps the first time. Emotions were high at times, especially as lack of sleep and energy output took their toll. New friendships were made and old ones strengthened. I particularly enjoyed the drama and the singing.

Chances for young people to get away from the routines and experience Christ in a Camp setting are so important. Through music, crafts, prayers, and fellowship, young people have a chance to grow closer to God and to experience His love in their lives.



All Saints Revived in Keno City

by the Rev. Steve Martin

I was in Keno City (which is 60 km north of Mayo and the end of the Silver Trail Highway) with my wife and my Mother back over the Christmas season when I first saw the little church (which has been used as a library, community hall and homeless shelter). It was over a conversation with some local community mem-



bers that they would love to see the wee church holding services again (the last time the church had a regular service was the late 1960s). So after some prayer and thought and a few more meetings with the Keno folks I decided to hold services back in the church. We have been meeting since the end of May every Wednesday evening.

We have there is a core of four people that have made All Saints a regular place to worship and have had tourist stop in to worship with us. I also use the time before the service to do some home visits with the members of the community. Keno has a population of about 20 people year round the number goes up during the summer months. People in Keno have been welcoming to Michelle, Joshua, and me. They love the fact we bring the Joshua with us. "It has been a long time since we have had a baby in town. The youngest person in Keno is 36" says one of the church members.

We are talking about moving the service to Sunday evenings in September. Even though we do not get a lot of folks coming out from Keno they like the fact that the church has come back to their town. We are looking forward to see what God has in store for this little church over the coming months. Please Keep this Ministry in your Prayers.



Moosehide Gathering



Bishop Larry and Deacon Percy Henry are seen at left getting ready for the 2012 Moosehide Gathering, held in early August. A highlight of the weekend was the well attended service of Holy Communion held in the Arbour shelter on Sunday, August 5. The Arbour is seen below.

At the bottom is a shot of the fire ceremony and large circle which ended the weekend's events.



Heating St. Paul's

After a winter of concerns about getting the big church warm enough for funerals and other special events, plus problems with our aging wood stove, we have replaced the stove and added two small oil heaters to help do the job. Fund raising has been a constant process through the spring and summer.



About our Cover Photo:

As women in ministry, Lynn de Brabandere, Laurie Munro and Sarah Usher decided that we needed a retreat. So Lynn and Sarah headed to Dawson City for a few days with Laurie. We had a wonderful time together. We had fun getting our pictures taken at Peabody's in Dawson City (a very touristy thing to do) but we also shared much laughter, good food, times of prayer and times of serious discussion. As women, our ministries can be quite different and unique so it was good to be together to discuss different aspects of our vocations. We were able to shop at the Thrift Shop for baby clothes and toys for Joshua Martin and Lynn and Sarah enjoyed a visit in Mayo with Michelle and Joshua (and Steve) on the trip home. At the end of the day we decided that this should be a yearly event so we look forward to the next adventure!

submitted by the Rev. Sarah Usher

Report from Watson Lake

St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, located on the Alaska Highway in Watson Lake, is a small, but growing, parish.

This church is very involved in many aspects of the wider Watson Lake community. For many years, the church has been running a Thrift Shop. This not only provides income for the church, it is also an opportunity to bless those in need. Members of our community enduring financial hardship often receive items for free if they cannot afford to pay. Each spring the community looks forward to the opening of the Thrift Shop, as this is one of the signs that Winter has ended in Watson Lake.

Church members are also involved in various community groups around town, contributing to the overall health of the community. In cooperation with other churches, we are involved in several ministries throughout the community. Among these are the regular "First-of-the-Month" prayer meeting, weekly youth group, Hidden Lakes Bible Camp, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and Community Christmas dinner.

It is often remarked by those outside the Churches, and by those new to the community, that they appreciate how well the churches work well together. This is one of the things that I have really come to appreciate about the community. There are five churches in Watson Lake, all of which are small from different denominations. However, by working together and focusing on the majors: the Bible, Jesus, our love for Him and making the Gospel known to others, we are able to work together to accomplish more for the Kingdom of God than if we operated independently.

I am very thankful for the unity within the parish of Watson Lake, and the unity among the churches of Watson Lake.

Blessings,
The Rev. Rob Langmaid



St. John the Baptist Anglican Church



Watson Lake Thrift Shop



Inside our Church, looking at the Altar.

OPERATION OVERBOARD



Reflection



These volunteers made it all happen.



Bible verses



Recreation



Crafts



Snacks



Activities



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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