

Northern Lights

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The Journal of the
Anglican Diocese
of Yukon
Winter 2013



Archdeacon of the Klondike

Ken Snider: July 26, 1933 - October 29, 2013

Ken and Aldene Snider at the Commissioner's Tea, June 2013

Photo by Dan Davidson

Thank you for Praying

Day 1 & 16

Whitehorse: Christ Church Cathedral.

The Very Rev. Sean Murphy; The Rev. Canon David Pritchard; Rev. Martin Carroll, Ruth Carroll & family; Licensed Lay Ministers: Beverley Whitehouse, Gaya Tiedeman, David Robertson

Day 2 & 17

Fort Nelson: St. Mary Magdalene. Toad River, Alaska Highway, Mile 150-506

Licensed Lay Minister in Charge - Ida Reid; The Rev. Don Thompson; Licensed Lay Ministers Terry Reid, Glen Gough, Jeanie Arva & 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 in Charge - Ford Hewlett, Aqiu Zhang; Licensed Lay Minister: Tim Liverton

Day 4 & 19

Carcross, Tagish & Johnson's Crossing St. Saviour's.

The Rev. Canon David Pritchard; **Teslin:** St. Philips. The Rev. Sarah Usher, Len Usher and the Ministry Team

Day 5 & 20: Communities of: Carmacks & Keno.

Day 6 & 21: Atlin: St. Martin. The Rev. Vera Kirkwood; The Rev. Dorothy Odian and their families. Licensed Lay Minister: George Holman.

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:** Licensed Lay Minister in Charge - Lynn de Brabandere and the Ministry Team



Day 9 & 24

Whitehorse: Church of the Northern Apostles.

The Rev. Rob Langmaid, The Most Rev. Terry Buckle, Blanche Buckle, The Rev. Sarah Usher, Len Usher. Licensed Lay Ministers Eileen Carver, Monica Langmaid, Shelia Robertson

Day 10 and 25

Mayo: St. Mary with St. Mark. **Pelly Crossing:** St. James the Lord's Brother: the Lay Ministry Team;

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. 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 & 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 Tetlich, Yukon Apostolate. Bishop's School of Yukon Ministries. PWRDF Diocesan Representative: Betty Davidson
Diocesan ACW President, Blanche Buckle, 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.
Canon Geoffrey & Rosalind Dixon.
The Rev. Canon David Kalles.
The Ven. John & Deacon Carol Tyrrell.
The Rev. Fred & Marcia Carson.
The Very Rev. Peter & Barbara Williams.
The Rev. Mary & Lino Battaja.
The Most Rev. Terry and Blanche Buckle;
Marion Carroll, Aldene Snider.

Day 31 and daily:

The Rt. Rev. Larry and Sheila Robertson

A Message from the Bishop



Matt 2:2

“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

As I complete the third year as Bishop of Yukon, I am aware of the many changes in the Yukon which are calling the Diocese of Yukon to change with it. Sometimes I feel like the wise men as we are on a journey to seek the will of God and to see where He is leading us in the future.

I have just had the honour and privilege of celebrating the life of Archdeacon Ken Snider who has recently gone from this world to be with our Lord Jesus. Arriving in the North in 1956, this gentle soul was one of the constant and sure foundations in the Diocese. He was always there with his acts of sacrificial love, his ingenious ways of reaching out to people in Christ’s name and his laughter. He was also one of our few historians. He was loved and will be missed. His passing reminds me again of the changing times.

At our last Executive Meeting we have decided, with God’s leading, to begin to shape our future to meet the challenges ahead of us. We will continue to seek to meet the needs of our people by providing ministry to the people of Yukon through the Ministry of Presence program, and the Bishop’s School of Yukon Ministries. Currently

two-thirds of the ministry in the Diocese of Yukon is a result of these two programs. The volunteers of these programs are the backbone of our ministry with their truly sacrificial service.

In addition to this, we are forming a committee to look at what the shape of the Diocese should look like in the future. We will have to look at our future needs and face our diminishing resources. Then we need to ask ourselves “What do we need to look like to best serve God in the Diocese with the resources we have?” Beginning with the Diocesan Office we need to look at the role of the Bishop, the Diocesan Administrator, the physical office space we have. We need to look at how we do our administration, maybe even our boundaries. If our goal is to serve God, to share the good news of salvation in Christ and to build up the Christians around us, we must be willing to lay out all we are and ask our heavenly Father to reshape us.

We start this now so that we have time to seek God’s will, do the research that is necessary and to allow God’s Spirit to guide us. Your prayers are requested. I have asked that a report be ready with a plan of action for our next Diocesan Synod in the spring of 2015.

The wise men had no idea of what to expect as they followed the star that led to Bethlehem. I feel a little like them at this point. I do know however that at the end will be Jesus, our Saviour and Redeemer. I know that He has a plan for our Diocese and that if we humble ourselves and pray, our Merciful Father will reshape us so that we will continue to be a beacon of light sharing the wondrous love of Jesus with the people of the Yukon and northern British Columbia.

On behalf of Sheila, myself and the people of the Diocese, may you be blessed this Christmas as you follow the star that leads you to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Bishop Larry Robertson

Up and Down the Diocese

Many things have been happening in the Diocese since the last issue. At St Christopher's, Haines Junction with Lynn De Brabandere there was a dinner with an Art Auction to raise funds for the parish to make the building accessible to all. This may mean a ramp or an elevator. The dinner was prepared by a family from the Philippians with much help from the community. Throughout the Summer the Church was used to display local art. It is wonderful to see the community rally around the parish as it, in turn, reaches out in love.

Over the summer the Rev. Steve Martin left the parish of St. Mary with St. Mark, Mayo to take a position with the Diocese of the Arctic. We wish him well. It is hoped that we will have a replacement to go into Mayo in the late spring.

St. Paul's, Dawson City with the Rev. Laurie Munro is looking at having two services in the winter as their chapel is becoming too small for the people coming - a wonderful predicament to be in.

This summer saw The Rev. Rob and Monica Langmaid move to the Parish of the Church of the Northern Apostles, Whitehorse. We rejoice with Rob and Monica as they announced that Monica is expecting twins in the spring. Ford Hewlett and his wife Aqiu Zhang replaced Rob in Watson Lake at St. John the Baptist in a ministry of presence position.

St. Saviour's, Carcross is sad to lose its pastor for four months as the Rev. David Prichard is in Swaziland, Africa to work with the Swaziland Education Trust Society and to build a home for a family. He will return in the spring. Bishop Larry will be taking some of the services at St. Saviour's while David is away.

St. Mary Magdalene, Ft. Nelson with Ida Reid had a busy fall preparing for a Retreat conducted by a representative from the Order of St. Luke. We praise God, many were touched with God's love and healing power.

We welcome George Holman from St. Martin's, Atlin to the Diocesan Executive. George is a Lay Minister and part of the St. Martin ministry team along with Rev. Vera Kirkwood and Rev. Dorothy Odian. George brings a wealth of experience with him to the Executive. The parish continues to be a beacon of light within the community.

Rev. Marion Schafer and the ministry team guided by Rev. Laurie Munro have been busy planning for the building of a new church in the parish of St. Luke's, Old Crow as the old church building is no longer safe to use.

Christ Church Cathedral, Whitehorse has been busy throughout the summer reaching out to the community with weekly BBQs and Historical Church Services held in the Old Log Church Museum, the first Church Building in Whitehorse. In more news the Dean, Sean Murphy and Bishop Larry Robertson have started Messy Church on Sunday afternoons once a month to reach out to many of those who do not now go to Church. The Rev. Martin Carroll and the Rev. Mary Battaja continue to do prison ministry at Whitehorse Corrections.

Retired Archbishop Terry Buckle continues with Street Hope Ministries out of the Cathedral reaching out to the people of the streets of Whitehorse. Archbishop Buckle has a way of being able to meet people where they are, sharing with them the love of Jesus.

Our Diocesan Administrator, Rev. Sarah Usher can't seem to get enough of the Church. She also looks after St. Philip's, Teslin as a volunteer. Along with her husband Len, they are often seen picking up elders to go to Church and Len is expert at keeping the fire burning to heat the building.

God is good and gracious to us all and we are thankful to serve Him in such a beautiful part of His world.

Bishop Larry Robertson

Messy Church - Yukon Style

by Bishop Larry Robertson

Christ Church Cathedral, in a further attempt to reach the community around them with God's love, has started "Messy Church - Yukon Style". For information on this monthly program, Bishop Larry along with the Cathedral, contacted and registered with Messy Church in England. The reply we got was very helpful and the representative noted that Bishop Larry was their first Messy Bishop. We are now connected with the Canadian Messy Church movement.

Messy Church - Yukon Style is a monthly two hour informal program that is based around a family meal with a time of worship and crafts. The purpose is to share God's love with the community of Whitehorse and to give an alternate form of worship that may appeal to some. These programs are theme related. "Acts of Love" and "Prayer" were the themes for the first two sessions. As the next two will be in the Advent and Christmas Seasons, the themes will reflect the time of the year. The worship service contains lots of singing and the message is often delivered with puppets.

Those participating in Messy Church have fun and are called to use their imagination in sharing God's Love. In each of the sessions we try to reveal a little of the Yukon's amazing history in a way that those who come will enjoy and remember.



**WINTER EDITION DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 20 2014**

Crossing Over

By Grace Snider

"In the night of death hope sees a star, and listening love can hear the rustle of the wing." Robert G. Ingersoll

Dear Ones,

My precious Dad, Kenneth Cober Snider, has crossed over. He died peacefully in his sleep early this morning, around 6:30 a.m. (October 29, 2013). I felt the rustle, a feeling akin to the fluttering of a butterfly's wings, in my heart near the time that my Dad's spirit was taking flight. I now imagine him reunited with his voice, his mobility and with many, many loved ones. The coffee pot is on and many conversations are brewing. Where there is Dad, there is conversation and laughter and I can almost hear it!

Yesterday my brother, John, and I went for a quick trip across the Yukon River on the ferry. The ferry's last trip of the season is tonight and we wanted to cross over one last time. John and I were sitting waiting for the ferry and I began to have a heightened sense of emotion and anxiety thinking that if something happened to my Dad, and if I was on the other side of the river, I wouldn't be able to help him. I explored this feeling more and realized that, other side or not, I would NOT be able to prevent my father's death. So, we drove onto the ferry and my curious mind played with this 'crossing over' metaphor for my Dad and for his crossing over. After my initial hesitation and worry about being on the other side, when we landed, I began to truly relax and to enjoy the experience. The view was unique and offered a not often seen perspective. I like looking at



things in a different way; it adds to the wonder and beauty that is life.

CBC Radio just phoned requesting an interview. I'm trying to muster my moxie, as it would be a great honour, as well as a great gift to my Dad. I asked if the interview could be pre-recorded. I MIGHT be able to do it that way so they can erase my tears and sniffles. I'll save my tears and sniffles for all other times.

(Ed. Note: Ken's funeral was held in Dawson on Saturday, November 2 at 2:00 PM at St. Paul's Anglican Church. There was a feast at the Trondeck Hwechin Hall at 5:00. Both events were packed in memory of an honoured citizen of Dawson, the Yukon and NWT.)

And, Dear Ones, thank you for bearing witness and for buoying all of us up with your love and support during this transitional time for my Dad, and for us. When my Dad was diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer in mid-July, he adamantly stated his wish of wanting to die in Dawson. Well, our family granted him that wish, through much humour and tears and hard labour, that labour of love. We were all put to the test on numerous occasions and just when we thought that we couldn't do it anymore, help arrived. The medical support here in Dawson has been beyond our expectations.

Yes, Dad, you were right. Dawson is a good place to live. And, yes, it is also a good place to die.

As well as seeing Dad's dying wish come true, we each have received many gifts from accompanying him to his death. I know that my life will never be the same. It will be deeper and fuller and richer. For that I am grateful to my Dad.

With love and gratitude,
Grace

Ed. Note: This is a reflection by Grace on the day of her dad's death.

Imagine more ... and great things will happen!

By Diana Swift

The Anglican Foundation of Canada may be the best-kept secret in the Canadian church. Few people realize that since 1957 this organization has disbursed more than \$28 million in grants and loans.

And the Foundation wants more Anglicans to benefit in more diverse ways. So it's embarking on an exciting journey of renewal to ensure its funding has maximum impact. "By making it easier to apply and increasing the impact of gifts, we're able to help more people with a wider range of projects and programs across the country," says the Rev. Judy Rois, executive director.

Four new funding initiatives will launch in 2014:

- Multiple-year funding for ministry projects of up to \$10,000 a year for three years
- A proactive annual call for proposals to encourage innovative ministry
- A donor/project matching program
- A streamlined twice-yearly application process for grants and loans

Symbolizing the new focus is a redesigned maple leaf logo with the tagline *imagine more*, which the Foundation hopes will start people dreaming about the endless possibilities it's ready to support.

Inspired by the fresh expressions of Vision 2019, its new initiatives include ecumenical youth strategies, hospice and elder care, theological education and projects in the performing and visual arts. "It's all about giving life to people, parishes and visions," says Rois.

No one knows better how ministry-enriching Foundation support can be than Justin Cheng, a postulant with the diocese of British Columbia, who received a grant to intern at St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem. "The experience allowed me to get a glimpse of the church's mission in the Middle East," he says. "The Foundation's financial support demonstrates the church's commitment to future ordained ministry."

Traditional funding for church renovation continues. "The

Foundation's generous support came at just the right time to raise our spirits and our hopes

in the early days of our ambitious renovation project," says the Rev. Brian Pearson, rector of St. Stephen's in Calgary.

Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Foundation chair, calls the revamped strategy "funding that matters and makes a difference in people's lives." Ottawa's Dean Shane Parker, strategic team leader, says the Foundation's new direction will "provide abundant resources for innovative ministries across the Canadian church."

Every parish can become a Foundation member by making an annual donation. Become a catalyst for great things in your diocese. *Imagine* a project you could be passionate about, and let the Foundation know!

To apply for funding or make donations, go to: **anglicanfoundation.org**



Council of the North and Gifts for Mission

By Deacon Sarah Usher

As many of you are aware, we are a member of the Council of the North. We are a grouping of financially assisted dioceses that are supported through grants by General Synod. The Council members are: The Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior; The Archdeaconry of Labrador; the Dioceses of Yukon, Caledonia, Athabasca, Saskatchewan, Arctic, Brandon, Keewatin, Moosonee; and Quebec.

We comprise 85% of Canada's geography and only 15% of its population. We all live in sparsely populated areas such as the Arctic, Yukon, Northern and Central Interior of BC, Alberta, Northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba, Northern Ontario, Northern Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador.

The General Synod gives the Council of the North a yearly grant and the Council divides it according to a formula, which takes into consideration many aspects, which include geography and population. This process has a high level of accountability and transparency and also aligns its ministry with Vision 2019. Approximately 18% of the General Synod's budget goes to the Council dioceses for these grants. The reductions which General Synod has experienced over the past several years has resulted in a significant reduction in our grants too. In 2012, at the request of the Council, it was

agreed that General Synod would reduce the grant by 5% per year for five years (2012-2016). We use our grant exclusively for stipends.

Over the years, we as a diocese have had no choice but to reduce our spending, as we need to be fiscally responsible. Unfortunately, that has resulted in a reduction of our stipendiary ministers and as many of you know we have had to come up with different ways to provide ministry to our parishes. The Bishop's initiative of "Ministry of Presence" is one of those alternatives.

I write this article not to scare anyone, but to help everyone realize that we are part of a bigger picture and we need to give thanks for the generosity of people across our vast country who donate to the Council of the North. I would also like to make you aware of the Anglican Church of Canada's Gifts for Mission. You can find the gift guide at www.anglican.ca/giftguide. In it there are several initiatives that you can give to, from the PWRDF to the Council of the North to the Anglican Foundation of Canada. Please take a look at this gift guide especially as we enter the Christmas Season - there are some great ideas for giving.

We have just been informed that CoGS adopted a budget which defers the 5% reduction of the grant to the Council of the North in 2014. This means that we can anticipate the same amount of funding in 2014 as we did in 2013. This is good news indeed!

Council of the North Family in Calgary



Front Row: Bishop Barbara Andrews, Mrs. Patricia Dorland, Very Rev. Jason Haggstrom, Rev. Debora Lonergan-Freake, Ms. Debra Gill, Bishop Fraser Lawton, Bishop Larry Robertson, Ms. Hanna Goschy, **Back Row:** Bishop Darren McCartney, Bishop Mark MacDonald, Bishop Tom Corston, Rev. Sarah Usher, Bishop Michael Hawkins, Bishop Lydia Mamakwa, Bishop Jim Njegovan, Bishop David Parsons, Archbishop David Ashdown, Bishop Adam Halkett.

Clergy Gathered at St. Paul's



With so many clergy present for Archdeacon Ken Snider's funeral on November 2, it only seemed proper to have most of them take part in the Sunday service the next day.

L R: Bishop Larry Robertson, the Most Reverend Terry Buckle, the Reverend Laurie Munro, Lay Minister Shirley Pennell, Dean Sean Murphy.

Building Projects at Northern Apostles

In the recent months there have been some changes at the Church of the Northern Apostles, Porter Creek. Some of the most noticeable ones include three different construction projects.

The first one to be completed was the removal of the old underground oil tank and replacing it with a new above ground tank.

The second project to be completed was a new metal roof installed on the Church building and it looks wonderful.

The biggest of the projects is still ongoing and that is a new rectory in the Church yard . We are excited to see this project happening and the progress we see every time we pull into the parking lot.



News from St. Paul's



Last summer's renovation project was to deal with some foundation deficiencies underneath the Richard Martin Chapel and the Thrift Store (next door) as well as to insulate under the floors to cut down on the heating costs. The recycling group, a bake sale and a big yard sale were three of our fund raising efforts.



The group photo from the Christmas Eve Pageant Shoot, held in the Museum.



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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