

Northern Lights

173

The Journal of the
Anglican Diocese
of Yukon
Winter 2015



Bishop Larry Robertson & the Reverend Glen Gough

Thank you for Praying

Day 1 & 16

Whitehorse: Christ Church Cathedral.

The Very Rev. Sean Murphy; 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 - Ford Hewlett, Aqiu Zhang, The Rev. Glen Gough & Sarah Gough; Licensed Lay Ministers: Jeanie Arva, Mark Tudor and Kathleen Olson..

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.

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 Dennis Odian; 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: The Rev. 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. Licensed Lay Ministers Charles & Valerie Maier; Pelly Crossing: St. James the Lord's Brother

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. Canon David Pritchard
The Rev. Dorothy Thorpe.
The Rev. Don & Rev. Lee Sax.
The Rv. Canon Geoffrey & Rosalind Dixon.
The Rev. Canon David Kalles.
The Ven. John & Rev. 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.
The Rev. Martin & Ruth Carroll.
Marion Carroll, Aldene Snider, Audrey Aylard.

Day 31 and daily:

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



A Message from the Bishop



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

As I read this verse once again I am led to three aspects of Christmas that helps me focus in this very busy time.

1 The Word is eternal. Christmas has an eternal message. The love of God in Christ is not some new fad, here today and gone tomorrow. God's Gift of love was since the beginning of time and will be here at the end of it. This should give importance to the message of Christmas which should give it top priority in our lives.

2 The Word was with God. The Message of Christ's birth is not just a nice story separated from God our Father. There are many nice stories out there with good morals and sentiment. The Birth of Christ not only has this but it comes with the assurance that this is a story sent by God to us. It is to be part of our story, our life.

3 The Word was God. This reminds us that this great gift given by God at this time is the Gift of God Himself. This is truly God's Story. It is God breaking into our human lives bringing us the gift of life. This is not just a nice story but it is God's great gift of himself to us that we share with those around us. It is God's gift of eternal life that he offers in the gift of His life on the cross.

In all our busyness, may we take time to make the Christmas story part of our story. May we find such love that we share the story with others.

On behalf of Sheila and I, I wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

Bishop Larry Robertson

The Diocese from Top to Bottom

By Bishop Larry Robertson

There have been many changes and happenings since the last issue of *Northern Lights*. We have said goodbye to some and welcomed others. In all things we acknowledge God's sovereignty and pray his will be done. This fall bells were rung at many of our Churches to celebrate the reign of our Queen, making her the longest reigning English monarch.

Fort Nelson has had much activity. We have said goodbye to **Ida and Terry Reid (Ministry of Presence, MOP)** as

they went back home to Newfoundland. The parish was blessed with their three years of ministry and we wish them well. They were quickly replaced with **Ford Hewlett (MOP) and his wife, Aquiu**. Mr Hewlett comes with over 30 years of pastoral experience. He moved from Watson Lake after two years there. As well, on All Saints Day, **Glen Gough**, a Licensed Lay Minister of the parish was ordained to the **Diaconate**. We lift Rev. Gough up for your prayers as he continues his ministry in the parish.

St John the Baptist of Watson Lake said goodbye to **Ford and Aquiu**

Hewlett, as they moved to Ft Nelson. Currently the parish is ably led by **Tim Liverton (LLM) and Rev. Cn. David Kalles (RET.)**. The parish is undergoing fund raising to replace the furnace so the rectory will be ready for another Ministry of Presence volunteer in the Fall of 2016.

St. Martin's of Atlin, BC, continues to reach out to the community and beyond. They have celebrated their **115th Anniversary**. Led by the **Rev. Vera Kirkwood and Rev. Dorothy Odian with George Holman (LLM)**, this parish is looking to attempt providing some services to **St Saviour's parish, Carcross**, to help provide ministry there since their priest moved away. Let us pray that everything falls into place to make this possible.

We give thanks that with the assistance of the **Anglican Foundation** a new furnace was put into the rectory at **St. Philips, Teslin**. **The Rev. Sarah Usher** is the Priest-in-Charge as one of her several hats. **Sarah and Len** travel regularly there from Whitehorse to minister to the parish and people.

Christ Church Cathedral, Whitehorse, has been busy. Throughout the summer they held weekly **BBQ lunches** to raise funds for the Whitehorse Food Bank and the Primates World Relief and Development Fund. In September **Messy Church** started again, which is a monthly meeting attended by families. They have crafts, service and a meal together. Keep Messy Church in your prayers as it reaches mostly people who do not go to any other worship service and some of them have begun to attend the regular Cathedral worship. The ladies of the parish are busy getting ready for the **Christmas Bazaar and Tea** in December. In January the Cathedral is hosting a week-long workshop called "**Healing the Pain of the Heart**". This will bring people from all over the diocese together to learn the basics of Christian Counselling.

St Christopher's, in Haines

Junction, is almost finished putting an elevator in the Church, which will make both the church sanctuary and the lower hall accessible to all people. **Rev. Lynn De Brabandere (MOP)** has faithfully served that parish for three years now. The Art Gallery continued throughout the summer despite all the construction. This Gallery was a brainwave of Rev. De Brabandere to promote the local artists of the community. The parish has started this year to provide meals to those who need it as one of many of the ministries of the parish.

The Parish of **Church of Northern Apostles, Whitehorse**, has started to develop some of their yard into Community Garden Boxes which will give some a chance to grow vegetables locally and give healthy food to some who are in need of it. **Rev. Rob Langmaid** conducted a youth retreat in Ft Nelson in September. **Northern Apostles and Christ Church Cathedral** worked together to have a successful **Vacation Bible School** where 30 children attended for this week-long event. Lay Minister Training is expected to begin in January to expand the Circle Ministry program in the Parish.

Charles and Valerie Maier (MOP) have moved to **Mayo** from Ottawa. They are settling in to reach out to the people of **St. Mary with St Mark**. Mr. Maier is getting involved in the community and seeking how to serve Christ in that Community.

Rev. Laurie Munro of Dawson City has continually been busy with the ministry and then travels to **Old Crow** providing leadership there with the assistance of the **Rev Marion Schafer**, the resident Deacon. A church group from Toronto came and held a **Vacation Bible School** in **St Paul's** and replaced a badly rotting set of stairs leading up to **St Barnabas, Moosehide**. It was truly great having them there to share their faith

This summer saw Diocesan visits from our Primate, **The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz**.

Together with **Bishop Larry Robertson**, they traveled 3000 kilometers around the diocese meeting people and seeing the various forms of ministries in the diocese. It was a blessed time while visiting six parishes of different shapes and sizes (see the full report in our last issue).

The **New England Company** paid us a visit also. This organization sends us

grants each year to help our ministry, primarily for **Bishop's School of Yukon Ministry**, which trains our Lay Ministers and our locally raised Clergy. They were able to see the fruits of their ministry grants. The Bishop did not get much of a break this summer although it was a glorious time.

Youth Ministry in the Klondike



In early August St. Paul's was blessed with the visit of a Youth Ministry team from St. John's Anglican Church in Willowdale, led by Rev. Jordan R. Wellington Associate Priest. They led a VBS, worked at Moosehide, helped with a yard sale, gave a concert and donated \$6,000 to our renovation fund.



**SPRING EDITION DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 28, 2016**

More Happenings at St. Paul's



Our ecumenical Christmas Pageant is created as a slide show, well before Advent, though this year it was late October. The Community Gospel Chapel and nearby buildings were this year's backdrop for the story, organized and photographed by Betty Davidson and



her volunteer crew. Maria Nyland will prepare the Powerpoint show to fit the script, and all will be revealed (including some out-takes) on Christmas Eve.



Several times a year the Children's Choir, which is made up of kids from our church, other churches, and some who just want to sing, takes on providing the music for a service, or assists in events like the town's Celebration of Lights. With so many Sunday sports events for kids, it's often hard to get them all together.

Happenings in Mayo

Mayo's new Ministers of Presence, Valerie and Charles Maier, arrived at the beginning of September. Over the summer considerable work had been done to fix-up the rectory, but the day they arrived saw a torrential downpour in Mayo. The re-roofing job scheduled for next year had to be organized and undertaken without further delay, as water was dripping through the ceiling. At the same time, some necessary stabilization work was done to shore-up the bell tower of the historic Church of St. Mary with St. Mark, where a service of Evening Prayer is now being offered every Sunday afternoon.

The morning of September 21 marked the moment when the Queen became Canada's longest reigning monarch, and a bell ringing ceremony was arranged to mark the occasion. Contact was made with members of the Mayo RCMP, Canadian Rangers, and representatives of these groups attended along with several parishioners. Prayers were said and the Church bell was rang-out across the village for nearly twenty minutes as everyone took their turn at the bell rope.

At the annual village garage sale, members of the parish served free tea, coffee, and juice, and collected funds for the PWRDF Syrian Refugee Appeal. Over \$70 was raised.

Charles and Valerie lived in Whitehorse in the 1980s, and are retired teachers. Their ministry includes helping out at Yukon College's Mayo campus, where they are both teaching. They are getting to know the community and settling-in to their refurbished rectory with its new high efficiency furnace. They say that both their home, and their welcome by the community have been very warm, and that they look forward to their first winter in Mayo.



A Deacon's Ordination Reflections

November 1st, All Saints Day, and the day starts with a quiet prayer asking for a calm mind, and a peaceful heart.

The last few days of October were anything but calm and peaceful. Rather they were a whirlwind of activity and unimaginable energy as I spent my days with hyper five-year olds in my Kindergarten class, and the evenings visiting a number of family and friends that came to show their support for this transition in my ministry. It was hard to focus on the 'big' day and my call from God; but I guess this is what it means to be called to a ministry that will have me balance my secular work and activities with the servant attitude and spiritual life to which I have been called.

The reality is, being ordained as a deacon and recognizing God's purpose in calling me to such a ministry, means that God being first in my life, is not just as it 'should be' but is now as it 'must be'. Now we all fall short in our walk of faith and fail to put God at the centre of our life; but now I have made promises that I will approach all aspects of my life in the knowledge of God and His place of primacy in my life. I'm not the first, nor the last, and I will neither be the first nor last to fail in this call; I too will need the love and forgiveness of God to pick myself up again. In the end, however, my promises are to serve others, with the love of Jesus Christ as my example; both in the church and the community, with my loved ones and with strangers, with those easy to be with and those who pose a challenge to my all too human sensibilities.

These realities, although known, hit me hard as I spent a quiet day with three wise mentors: Bishop Larry, Rev. Sarah Usher and Dean Sean Murphy. The opportunity to walk with them through the scriptures that would be read at the service of ordination, provided me better insight to my new reality and the knowledge that I will not take this walk alone. The fact that it was All Hallows Eve made me well aware that not only these three, but all the saints, clergy, martyrs, apostles, my family, friends, church family and all who love God, have walked or are walking this same path to God, lit by the light of Christ.

Well back to the day itself. God chose not to grant the calm mind and peaceful heart before the service started. I admit, I was a bit manic! Yet as we processed in with the hymn, "He Leadeth Me", the calm and peace washed over me as I had prayed. We laughed with Bishop Larry, Wally and the children, while learning a deacon needs to be a practiced dishwasher; we heard scripture tell us, "before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart" and "whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all." Sean taught with clarity and inspired us all to realize although some are called to ordination, all are called to serve others and to love the Lord our God. The actual ordination took place next and promises were made, prayers said, and symbols of ministry were given, but there was one moment that will endure in my memory forever. As the Bishop placed his hands on my head and asked for the Holy Spirit to be sent down, I had a shiver down my spine. I have these shivers and have always attributed them to moments when God touches my soul with His Spirit. I have never experienced this in such a specific and precise way as now. Sorry, Bishop, I know you didn't ordain me, you were there in an important way, but as sure as I know God called me to this ministry, I know I was ordained by his Holy Spirit at that moment.

The people, whether far away or close by, their support, gifts, and fellowship on

this day all speak to the joy to which I will exercise my ministry. I give all thanks and praise to God for every person who shared of themselves in word or deed on this day and pray that my ministry, which you all share with me, will glorify God in every possible way.

Together in Christ,
Rev. Glen Gough



Rev. Sarah Usher; LLM Mark Tudor; Bishop Larry; Kady Vatcher-Cook; Rev. Glen Gough; Thomas Gough; Dean Sean Murphy



Rev Glen and Sarah Gough



Bishop Larry and Rev. Glen

News from Christ Church Cathedral

Summer Barbecues

By Mary Robertson

Summer Barbecue Co-ordinator

At the Annual General Meeting of Christ Church Cathedral held on February 8, 2015, the congregation supported the church hosting barbecues on Tuesdays during the summer and recommended that Vestry decide where the net proceeds would be allocated. After in-depth discussions, it was approved that 50% of the net proceeds would go to The Whitehorse Food Bank and 50% of the net proceeds would go to Nepal Earthquake Relief through the Primates World Relief and Development Fund.

The summer barbecues were a tremendous success! It was a wonderful outreach project, a great time for fellowship and an opportunity for the community to know Christ Church Cathedral and Stringer Park.

These barbecues would not have happened without the fantastic volunteer crew that supported this event!

With all the great help and support, we held eleven barbecues on Tuesdays from June 23 to August 25. 711 lunches were served with the busiest day seeing 103 guests. Total revenue received was \$4,053.80 and the expenses were \$1,848.34.

The summer barbecues yielded a net profit of \$2,205.46. A cheque for \$1,102.73 was issued to The Whitehorse Food Bank and a cheque for \$1,102.73 was issued to the Primates World Relief and Development Fund for Nepal Earthquake Relief.

Thank you to everyone who supported this outreach and fundraising project.



*Bishop Larry Robertson &
Dean Sean Murphy cooking*

Photos by George Privett,
taken in June 2015



Fellowship in Hellaby Hall



Patricia Kohler collecting money

News from Northern Apostles

Fall Gathering at Church of the Northern Apostles

This year we changed the wording of our September get together from “Welcome Back Sunday” to “Fall Gathering”. As we reach out to the community, or have new people attending our church for the first time, we want them to feel comfortable. Meat was provided by the church, and the rest was pot-luck. As always there was plenty of food. The weather co-operated for us to be able to barbeque outside in the sunshine and it was wonderful to have so many young ones enjoying the social. I think most of us are happy to be back to a schedule after our busy summer.



Remembrance Sunday at the Church of the Northern Apostles

This year at the Church of the Northern Apostles we had a moving Remembrance Sunday service. Members of the Canadian Army, Air Cadets, Army Cadets and Rangers took part in the service. The highlight of the service was Lt. Col. G.A. (Sandy) Watson sharing about his experience of faith as a soldier in Afghanistan.

Two of Lt. Col. Watson's children, Rhys (Air Cadet, age 15) and Teaghan (Army Cadet, age 13) participated in the service by delivering the readings and reciting “In Flanders Fields”, respectively.

The Rev. Robert Langmaid, also a Canadian Ranger, led the service of Morning Prayer in his Ranger uniform, quite a change from his traditional robes!

As we paused to remember the sacrifices of so many that have made our Canadian way of life possible, we were reminded of the Greatest Sacrifice, made by our Lord Jesus, so that we could be free of sin and death eternally.





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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