

Northern Lights

183

The Journal of the
Anglican Diocese
of Yukon
Winter 2019



The new kitchen in the Richard Martin Memorial Chapel at St. Paul's got its first full workout for this year's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

Thank you for Praying

Day 1 & 16

Whitehorse: Christ Church Cathedral.

The Very Rev. Sean Murphy; The Rev. Elsa Cheeseman and Don Cheeseman; Licensed Lay Minister: David Robertson.

Day 2 & 17

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

The Ven. Lesley Wheeler-Dame, Archdeacon of Liard & Eric Dame; The Rev. Glen Gough & Sarah Gough; Licensed Lay Ministers: 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.

Teslin: St. Philips, Ven. 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 & Dennis Odian; Licensed Lay Ministers George Holman and Cheri Malo.

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 Ministry Team

Day 9 & 24

Whitehorse: Church of the Northern Apostles.

The Ven. Sarah Usher, Len Usher. Licensed Lay Ministers Eileen Carver, Sheila Robertson, Cheri Malo and Linda Gerein.

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 Ven. Laurie Munro, Archdeacon of Klondike; The Rev. Percy Henry. Licensed Lay Ministers: Mabel Henry; Shirley Pennell and Betty Davidson.

Day 12 & 27

Old Crow: St. Luke's.

The Rev. Bert Chestnut, The Rev. Marion Schafer, Esau Schafer & Lay Ministry Team

Day 13 & 28

The Ven. Sarah Usher: Executive Archdeacon; 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, Blanche Buckle, and all ACW members.

Day 15 & 30

Those retired from Missionary Service:

The Rev. Canon David Pritchard.
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

Thoughts of Easter and Spring Renewal

With Easter comes many things to celebrate. Of course there is the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is Jesus who has made an entrance way to eternal life from the Father through the shedding of His precious blood. Truly a reason to celebrate.

Easter, in this part of the world, is a sign of the coming of spring. The weather gets warmer, the sun comes out earlier and stays longer and there is a general lift in the attitudes and spirits of many of the people. People begin to plan and get ready for trips yet to come. Is the kicker (outboard motor) in good condition? What about the boat and camping supplies? Spring brings a change of focus and a forward looking view from that of the dark cold of winter.

This year, for the Diocese of Yukon, Easter also brings the election of a Co-adjutor Bishop. As Sheila and I think of retirement, the diocese is busy planning to see who the new bishop will be when we retire. May 4th is set aside for the election, so planning is already in full swing. As the Diocesan Bishop I stay out of the organizing of the election. I get to enjoy watching the people that I serve in action. It is a delight, even if I would like to be more involved.

Times are changing for the people of Old Crow this spring. One of the first actions I took when I became Bishop in 2010 was to stop the worship services in the church building because the church was splitting from the bottom and things were getting dangerous, not to mention very expensive. The worship services were moved to the Language Centre and discussions continued regarding a new



Bishop Larry and Sheila Robertson

church. After many years of discussions, planning and praying, a way forward was found.

With the support of the whole community, including great support from the Band Council, the old Northern Store, which was not being used, was moved onto church property and is now being renovated into a new Church. In May, the Primate of Canada, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, will come with me to help consecrate the new church. The members of St. Luke's along with their minister, Rev. Bert Chestnut (Ministry of Presence) have worked hard to see this happen.

Another community where things are happening is Mayo. Over the past few years the Church has seen the rectory and church renovated. In addition, the garage was reconstructed into a one bedroom living place supplying much needed accommodation for the community and a steady income for the parish.

cont'd on p. 4

Thoughts of Easter and Spring Renewal

Much of this is due to the huge efforts of Lay Ministers Charles and Valerie Maier (Ministry of Presence).

The day after the election of our Co-adjutor Bishop, we will gather at the Cathedral again to celebrate the ordination of Rev. Glen Gough to the priesthood.

This spring brings new life to our

diocese in many ways. I praise God for how He has blessed us. I pray that this Easter God will bless and change you, giving you the joy of the resurrection in your life.

Blessings and thanks for your support.

Bishop Larry Robinson

News From Christ Church Cathedral



Above is a photo of working on a “Bible Message in a Vial Craft” at our Feb 17, 2019 Messy Church at Christ Church Cathedral, in which the theme was “Read Your Bible.”

The photo below shows people gathering for our Roast Beef Dinner Fundraiser on February 22, 2019. The Dinner was beautifully organized by Jeannie Roches, assisted by other volunteers. Jeannie also served as chef for a delicious meal, enjoyed by all.

We had a full house, with 63 people attending. We raised nearly \$1000 and the proceeds went to the Cathedral, with roughly 50% earmarked for a new outreach ministry to the inner city of Whitehorse called The Gathering.

The Gathering is led by Bishop Larry Robertson and Deacon Elsa Kolm Cheeseman, assisted by Jeannie Roches and others, with music usually by Anne Coates or Blanche Buckle. It meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month and is a time of Praise, Prayer and Teaching, with Gospel hymns and choruses, and a meal together.



Mayo Collaborates to Support Healthy Families

Late in 2018, members of Mayo's Anglican parish joined with parents of school-age children, representatives of the First Nation, and the staff of Yukon College's Mayo campus. They were looking for ways to work together to promote healthy family relationships in a community that has experienced problems with domestic abuse and other family related problems over the years.

The first action was to bring several families joined together for lunch and an afternoon of Christmas gingerbread house building. There was time to share ideas and learn more about forming a family support group.

Early in 2019, Lay Minister Valerie Maier and another community member visited in the homes of 22 Mayo families. They delivered a bag of books, information, food, and shared-activities that families could do together. They also asked some questions about when to meet, what to do, and what was needed to ensure the most families could take part.

When the results were analyzed, it was clear that early evening was the best time. Child minding for the youngest children was needed, and supper and rides to and from the event needed to happen. Many activities that were suggested centred around learning new skills, participating in family activities, and sharing the rewards and challenges of parenting in discussions.

The group is called Parenting Together, and it gathered Feb 7 at the Mayo Curling Lounge. The First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun supplied rides to people who needed them and 37 parents, grandparents and children attended. All worked together to prepare their supper and share the evening meal. A

Cont'd on p. 6



Summer Edition deadline:
July 20, 2019

Mayo Collaborates to Support Healthy Families

Cont'd from p. 5

discussion followed about what strong families look like, what they do, and how they feel. After supper the children and adults separated. The children had their own supervised program. The adults sat back and discussed what parenting meant to them.

Parenting Together plans to meet once a month and work to provide participants with a meal, develop new skills, and talk about the real issues that face parents. Other community agencies including Yukon Social Services, the RCMP, and the Nursing Centre are planning to participate. Funding has been secured from the First Nation, Yukon College, the Anglican Church Women of New Westminster, and Mayo's Anglican Parish of St. Mary with St. Mark Church.

Parenting Together is a practical way to address some of the difficult problems facing families in communities like Mayo that have experienced residential schools, insensitive adoptions, and other instances of historical social trauma. The meetings are part of the church's efforts to help turn the page and walk together towards a brighter future.



Mayo Youth Link with Toronto Youth

Nobody could have guessed at the rich relationships that would result when Bishop Larry connected with the priest at the Church of the Redeemer in Toronto three years ago when they met and discussed a possible work exchange in the Yukon. This quickly transformed into a multi-year exercise in relationship building and reconciliation that has touched the lives of young Torontonians and Yukoners alike.

The parish of St. Mary with St. Mark in Mayo connected with the Toronto group. Youth leaders and 7 youth from Redeemer came during the summer of 2016, visited Mayo and got to know the local people. They helped at the Church and First Nation garden, learned traditional beading from elders, toured the mining areas of Dawson City and Keno City and learned about the issues affecting First Nation and non-First Nation people living in Canada's North. All joined in community events on Canada Day, including the helicopter peanut drop, a traditional fixture of Mayo July First celebrations.

The Toronto youth invited the youth of Mayo to visit their city the following summer. Mayo youth raised funds and got support from Experiences Canada, the Anglican Healing Fund, local companies, the First Nation, Village and parish. Young people from Mayo renewed old friendships and got to meet more youth from the Church of the Redeemer and St. George's on the Hill parish in Etobicoke. Together they toured Toronto, shared meals and lots of laughs. They learned about the varied communities that make up Toronto and also participated in an outreach mission to those living on the street.

Then, in 2018 a fresh group of 17 youth and leaders from Toronto flew to Yukon and made the long drive to Dawson City and Mayo. Some had never contemplated an area of Canada where there were few signs of human activity for so many kilometres!

Together, Toronto and Mayo youth helped in the First Nation garden, swam in Five Mile Lake, and participated in traditional crafts under instruction from First Nation elders. High points of the visit included a drive up to see the magnificent viewpoint known as The Signposts above Keno City, and another chance to participate in the Canada Day peanut drop.

Mayo and Toronto youth have set-up a Facebook platform where they now regularly communicate about the various issues that touch their lives. Many differences certainly exist between life in Canada's largest metropolitan city and the small Northern community of Mayo. Nevertheless, these exchanges have shown that, given our common humanity, there is far more that unites us than divides us. And that is a good thing.



At Home & Out and About; Archdeacon of Liard

One of the things I love as the Archdeacon of Liard is the opportunity to be out and about with people in the various communities. Just before Christmas I had the blessing of spending some time in Watson Lake, Telegraph Creek, Dease Lake and Atlin. Unfortunately I didn't get the chance to spend time in Teslin.

In Watson Lake I stayed with Dianne & Gerry and got to town just in time to participate in moonlight madness at the rec centre. This is an additional event held well after the big craft sale. St. John the Baptist members faithfully take the time to bring everything over and then take it all back again. It is a lot of work and the benefit is about being out and visible.



The four legged participants of Moonlight Madness with Dianne Amann in the background.



Licensed Lay Incumbent Dr. Tim Livoton, Ven. Lesley Wheeler-Dame and Dianne Amann with some of the display at Moonlight Madness

The Dease Lake and Telegraph Creek portion of the trip was very difficult. It was the first time I had been in since the fire and although I took some pictures it is difficult to see the overwhelming sense of loss. Twenty-one homes were lost and also many of the cultural facilities such as the head start building. It was wonderful to see some of the people who were staying in Dease but the majority of Telegraph Creek residents were not back yet and no residents were back in the community.



The forefront of the picture shows that several houses are missing as well as the Roman Catholic church and rectory and the nurses residences.

In Atlin I stayed at the home of Rev. Dorothy and Dennis Odian. Again I arrived in time for a sale. The congregation of St. Martin open the thrift store and provide a beautiful assortment of refreshments for the community. It was a lot of fun to listen to conversations and spend time visiting. How many of you have seen the incredible wood work that Dennis Odian does? Absolutely beautiful pieces. Thank you Dennis for the cross.

Blessings;

Lesley+

The Ven. Lesley Wheeler-Dame

Archdeacon of Liard

Priest - St. Mary Magdalene

The Season of Epiphany

My favourite season is Epiphany and each year our family hosts an epiphany party for the congregation. It is our way of saying thank you to the congregation for their support of us. As with any good Anglican event there is a lot of food and then some kind of activity. This year we supplied wooden items and everybody spent time visiting and painting their items.



Members of the congregation who held on to the end. Paint, coffee cups and chocolates - what more does one need?. Alvina Berggren, Jeanie Arva, Mark Tudor with Eric Dame in the back.

We are very excited to have a mixed confirmation class; two adults and two youth. Classes started last fall and confirmation date is June 9th. Right now we are taking a break from regular classes and doing the Alpha Youth series. We recently had our retreat day.

One of the activities was building a tower with marshmallows and spaghetti noodles after reading the story of the Tower of Babel.



In February the town of Fort Nelson celebrates Heritage Days at the Fort Nelson Heritage Museum. St. Mary Magdalene was asked to host a service at the old museum church. This was one time that Rev. Glen Gough and I were quite happy to be wearing robes. Even though the fire was crackling it was cold.



A Special Event in Telegraph Creek

From March 4th to 8th I was blessed and honoured to be invited to Telegraph Creek again for a very special celebration. You may have seen some of this on the news recently. Venturi Expeditions were testing an electric snowcat that will be used for exploration missions in Antarctica. The Prince of Monaco, Albert II, was one of the special guests along with astronaut Chris Hadfield and Xavier Chevrin, President of Venturi Automobiles in Monaco. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zdaee9iHc9s>)

This testing of the unit was a symbolic commemoration of a 1934 attempt. On Ash Wednesday the vehicle arrived in Telegraph and we had a service at St. Aidan's church downtown. This was probably the shortest Ash Wednesday service on record. We had had a heater on for 2 days, but the temperature in the building gave no evidence of that fact. The service was followed by a community luncheon which included moose stew and soup and salmon soup and a whole lot of other food.

This was an incredible blessing and a much needed event for the community to come together and have this awesome presentation on their road to healing.



"Antarctica" - a zero emissions vehicle which will be used for exploration in Antarctica.



Shirley Quash, bundled up and waiting to lead the service on Ash Wednesday.



Members of the community and the Expedition team members watch the Tahltan drummers and dancers.



*Back row: Richard (member of the expedition team), Shirley Quash - Lay Leader, Astronaut Chris Hadfield
Front row: Prince Albert II of Monaco, Ven. Lesley Wheeler-Dame, Xavier Chevrin, President of Venturi.*

News from St. Paul's



Raising money for PWRDF Buying the Farm through World of Gifts - Tanzania, Mozambique and Burundi



World Day of Prayer 2019, with a focus on Slovenia.

Children at the event were part of the St. Paul's Singing Group



Cooking for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper in the Richard Martin Chapel's NEW KITCHEN.



Eating wonderful pancakes and raising \$470 for PWRDF equity in the Canadian Foodgrains Bank for food projects in Yemen, and for the Rohingya refugees.



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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If you would prefer an electronic edition please contact the Diocese.

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