

A Message from the Bishop

Blessed Beyond Measure

I've begun this my first article as your bishop with that title because I am discovering that it is absolutely the only thing that I can say that I know with 100% certainty. The time since my consecration and installation in late August has been filled with learning that there is a lot I don't know. And praying.



Thank you to each and every one of you for your support of me and, by extension, to the Diocese of Yukon. I truly appreciate the support that I have witnessed and felt through your attendance at the events, through financial donations, through prayers and messages of encouragement. Again - Thank You.

I grew up hearing that phrase "Blessed Beyond Measure" from my mother, the Rev. Margaret (Peg) Wheeler. It meant a deep understanding of how blessed we are as children of God. Blessed in many areas of our life. Not blessed because of things or possessions, although we are certainly blessed in that way and of course that is a part of our blessings. But it is more than that; it is also blessed to even be able to accept and acknowledge that we are blessed. It is within the very fabric of our being.

I was asked shortly after my installation what I wanted my legacy to be for the Diocese of Yukon. That is it.

From the Bishop cont'd

I want all parishes, programs, ministries, clergy, lay leadership, vestries, members and each of our communities in the Anglican Church in Yukon to know, and be able to communicate in word and action, that we are blessed. I want it to be recognizable in the way we live out reconciliation, overcome racism, fight for social justice, care for creation, and in the way we love, encourage support and care for each other in our parishes.

I believe it is important for us to abide by, and to live out, the five marks of mission. Our only mission, of course, can be found in Matthew 28:18-20: *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* NRSV

The five marks of mission point us toward the great commission found in Matthew 28. If you are not sure what the five marks of mission are, you can find them here:

<https://www.anglican.ca/ask/faq/marks-of-mission/>

One of the things I am learning right now is how to put together this issue of Northern Lights. Dan Davidson, our editor, is struggling with cataracts and waiting for surgery. Please keep him in prayer. I know how so many look forward to receiving their issue. So, I agreed to take it on. If you find problems, please don't blame Dan.

Dan and his contribution to Northern Lights is just one of our many blessings here in the Diocese of Yukon. Every day, in some way I am reminded of the beauty we are surrounded with, the

gifts we have in the talent of so many of our members, the delight of the many good news stories of our parishes.

Thank you God for the many blessings and thank you for the many faithful people who serve you in this Diocese of Yukon.

I pray this issue will be a blessing to you, the reader.

May you find joy, love and laughter during this upcoming season.

May you find opportunities for quiet contemplation during the season of Advent, peace and love as we celebrate once again the birth of our Saviour, and then the brilliant light and joy of inclusion and abundance of discoveries during the beautiful season of Epiphany.

Wishing each of you a very merry Christmas and a year full of Blessings Beyond Measure.

+ Lesley



*The Right Rev. Lesley Wheeler-Dame
and Mr. Eric Dame*
