

# Northern Lights



# 184  
The Journal of the Anglican  
Diocese of Yukon

Winter 2019

Thank you for praying**Day 1 & 16**

**Whitehorse: Christ Church Cathedral:**  
The Very Rev. Bert Chestnut. The Rev.  
Elsa Cheeseman & Don Cheeseman.  
Licensed Lay Minister: David Robertson.

**Day 2 & 17**

**Fort Nelson: St. Mary Magdalene: Toad  
River, Alaska Highway, mile 150-506**  
The Rev. Glen Gough & Sarah Gough;  
Licensed Lay Minister: 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; Outreach from Whitehorse;  
**Teslin, St. Philips:** Ven. Sarah Usher, Len  
Usher and the Ministry Team

**Day 5 & 20**

Communities of: **Carmacks and Keno.**

**Day 6 & 21**

**Atlin –St. Martin:** The Rev. Vera Kirkwood;  
The Rev. Dorothy Odian & Dennis Odian;  
The Rev. George Holman & Marilyn Holman  
Licensed Lay Minister Cheri Malo.

**Day 7 & 22**

Communities of: **Faro and Ross River.**

**Day 8 & 23**

**Haines Junction: St. Christopher; 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: Cheri Malo and Linda Gerein.

**Day 10 & 25**

**Mayo: St. Mary with St. Mark, License  
Lay Ministers Charles & Valerie Maier  
Pelly Crossing: St. James the Lord's  
Brother.**

**Day 11 & 26**

**Dawson: St. Paul's; Moosehide: St.  
Barnabas; The Klondike Creeks; the  
Dempster Highway:** The Rev. Laurie  
Munro; The Rev. Percy Henry.  
Licensed Lay Ministers: Mabel Henry  
Shirley Pennell and Betty Davidson

**Day 12 & 27**

**Old Crow: St. Luke's,** The Rev. Marion  
Schafer, Esau Schafer & Lay Ministry  
Team.

**Day 13 & 28**

The Ven. Sarah Usher, Executive Arch-  
deacon. Members of the Diocesan  
Executive Committee. Diocesan Prayer  
Partner: Diocese of Fredericton

**Day 14 & 29**

Patti Tetlich, Yukon Apostolate. Bishop  
School of Yukon Ministries. Diocesan  
Youth Ministry. PWRDF Diocesan  
Representative: Betty Davidson;  
Diocesan ACW President, Blanche  
Buckle and all ACW Members.

**Day 15 & 30**

Those retired from missionary service:

**31<sup>st</sup> & Daily**

The Rt. Rev. Lesley Wheeler-Dame,  
Eric Dame & family.

## 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*

---

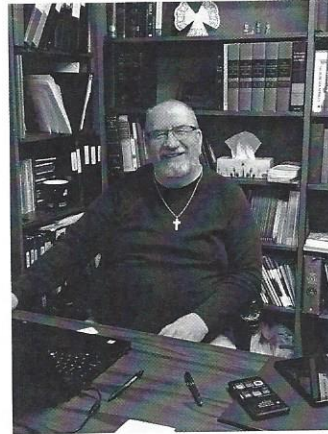
## Dean's Corner

### Ministry in the North

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*

*Matthew 28:19 NIV*

Ministry in the north is most definitely rewarding in ways that have very little to do with financial rewards, but it is probably the toughest job you will ever love. My name is Rev. Harold Chestnut, most folks call me Bert and I have completed a term of three (3) years working in the community of Old Crow, Yukon Territory, as Priest-In-Charge, St. Luke's Anglican Church. Old Crow is the most northern, most isolated community in the Yukon Territory, well inside the Arctic Circle. It is a lovely First Nations community, where things don't always work the way they are expected



I was struggling with my ministry and a friend suggested I check into ministry in the north, specifically the Diocese of Yukon, where there was a great need. You see, they are unable to pay for full time ministry, as a result, they were requesting clergy and laity who could sustain themselves to volunteer time and resources for a period of at least one year. I contacted the bishop there and after several phone calls and a telephone interview with the vestry of Old Crow, it was decided that I would serve there. My contract with the Diocese was for one (1) year, renewable yearly upon review and agreement from all parties concerned. The day I arrived in Old Crow, with the Bishop, I remember saying to myself, "What have you gotten yourself into now?"



*Dean's Corner cont'd*

With God's help and guidance, I screwed up my courage, said good-bye to the Bishop, and began what would turn into a 3 year mission in the north.

I discovered a great deal about the north, about First Nations, and, maybe more importantly, about myself. The Bishop, in his wisdom, appointed me to the executive committee for the Diocese. That served three purposes: 1) It gave Old Crow a voice at Executive meetings; 2) It gave me an opportunity to get out of community for a short time, meet other folks like me who were also in northern ministries, an opportunity for fellowship; and 3) supplement my supplies since Old Crow had only one store. I was given a small honourarium, not anything close to what you could live on, but it helped with the high cost of food stuffs.

Old Crow, after I have arrived, deemed it important to have a workable church space...a vital link to healing, and necessary to the spiritual well being of the community. Instead of building a new structure, it was decided that the old Northern Store building would be moved to church property and renovated into a new worship space. It is completed and for years to come will provide a spiritual touchpoint for the Vuntut Gwitchin of Old Crow. A space that fed people physically for years would now feed them spiritually.

What a lot of this demonstrates is ministry in the north is unique unto itself. Whether you are conducting a regular Sunday morning service or a summer midnight service on top of a mountain, the key is to remember this is all ministry. Mostly ministry in the north is about finding a place in the community, becoming a wholesome representative of the ministry you are about and loving the people you live with. God never differentiated between persons, colour, sex, or national boundaries. Until we realize that the world is not about us and

---

*Dean's Corner cont'd*

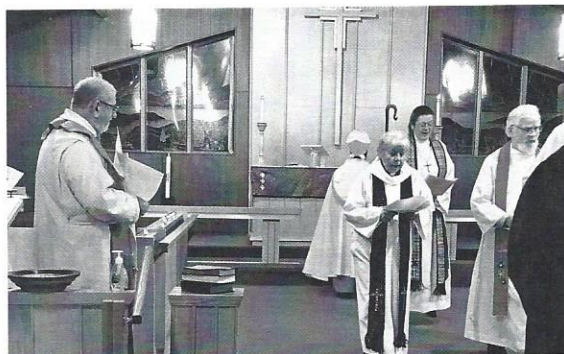
them, privileged and needy, rich or poor, ministry in the north or any place else will never be satisfying to anyone.

After serving in Old Crow for three (3) years I was on my way home to Halifax, then on to another mission. Bishop elect, Lesley Wheeler-Dame, asked if I would consider a three (3) year interim posting as the Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, and Dean of the Yukon, which I am happy to report I accepted gladly. I am now living in Whitehorse, I've moved south. Every new opportunity, every new day brings along new challenges and discoveries in ways to serve the people of Christ Cathedral and, yes, the Diocese of Yukon, as well.

The scripture I quoted at the beginning of this article is "all inclusive", we have an obligation to that mandate. One more opportunity for us to think outside that box we all have spent so much time and effort building. Thanks be to God.

The Very Rev. H. A. (Bert) Chestnut

Rector Christ Church Cathedral, Dean of Yukon

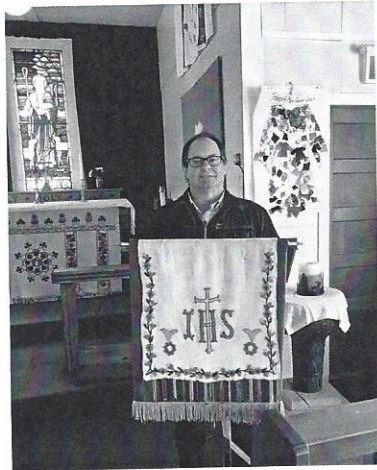


Celebration of New Ministry and Installation as Dean. Bert looks on at some of his new family. The Rev. Elsa Kolm-Cheeseman, The Rev. Martin Carroll, The Ven. Sarah Usher



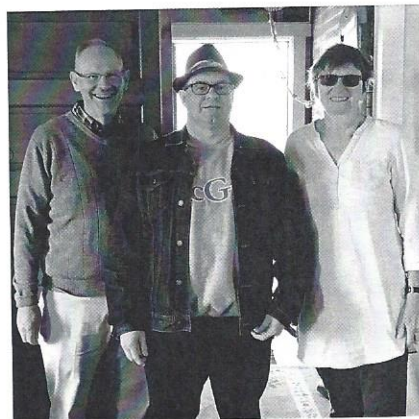
## St. Mary with St. Mark's. My Mayo Experience

I saw the church in Mayo in the Anglican Church calendar long before I went there and wondered what it is like to be an Anglican in the Yukon. This spring, I was on the phone with Valerie and Charles Maier, who do ministry in that church, answering their call for a theological student to run the ministry for the summer.



In July, I flew to Whitehorse, the farthest north I had ever ventured. I was met at the airport and brought to the bunkhouse next to the Cathedral in Whitehorse, my first introduction to northern hospitality. On the five-hour journey to Mayo, I was able to discuss more about my background with Valerie and to learn a more about Mayo, which is in Na-cho Nyak Dun First Nation. The drive

was also a way to experience the magnificent landscape of the Yukon. My second day in Mayo featured a wedding, presided by Charles, which brought the whole community together. I was surprised that I was welcomed at the dinner, not something I had experienced in Montreal. The next weekend, we had a baptism in the parish and welcomed more people to St Mary with St Mark's.



I relished having full responsibility for services for the first time

*St. Mary with St. Marks cont'd*

in my ministry. I wanted community involvement in the services, and some of the congregation responded by doing readings. Fellowship afterwards was always great with BBQ and conversation. Being in Mayo was my first experience living and worshipping with First Nations people. It helped me to gain more understanding of their realities and the work, particularly in the area of relationship building, that needs to happen around Reconciliation.

I met many people in the company of the Maiers. I was invited blueberry picking and to a hide tanning workshop. We had the church open daily and people from the community working there on various projects throughout the summer. I also participated in the Wednesday lunch program



coordinated by the parish, where volunteers offered food and hospitality for those in need. I learned a lot through stories and anecdotes. It was a blessing to break bread with others in a community far from my home, connected through the church and the gospel.

I was in Mayo for the signing of the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan, a major event for all First Nations of Yukon as their cooperation led to a major environmental protection agreement. At the celebratory community feast this time, I was more known and welcomed, and this impressed upon me the importance of the church being understood as part of the fabric of the community. Just before I returned to Montreal, for the opening day of school, the Anglican ministry was asked to pray, led by Valerie Maier.



*St. Mary with St. Mark's cont'd*

I am thankful to have enlarged my own vision of what ministry is in the Anglican Church of Canada. I also experienced such amazing hospitality in a most beautiful region of Canada and am thankful to all who welcomed and supported me.

I was also honoured to have been included in the services for the consecration of Bishop Lesley and the ordination of Rev. Elsa. It was wonderful to celebrate these two events with members of the Yukon diocese and the Bishops from British Columbia. The artwork in the Cathedral is absolutely stunning. My summer in Mayo was invaluable to my formation for priesthood in the Anglican Church. I believe a



program to allow Ordinands to have experiences like mine, living and working outside of their southern, urban reality, would be tremendous for our national Church and the Reconciliation process. It would enable regions and dioceses to better understand each other as we bring the Good News to our country.

In closing I want to acknowledge once more the incredible hospitality I experienced in Mayo and everywhere I was in the Yukon Territory. I had read about northern hospitality before I arrived but to experience it first-hand was an honour and a blessing. I have since included mention of it in my talks and sermons, sharing a bit of that hospitality back in Montreal. God Bless, Mussi Cho. Jeffrey

*We give thanks to Jeffrey and the Diocese of Montreal for his time in our diocese. He is a student at Montreal School of Theology, Master of Divinity Degree program*



## A Very Busy Week.

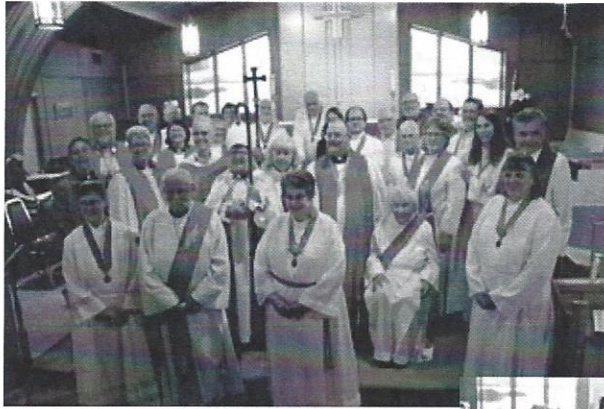
Aug 20th to 25th was extremely busy. The Diocese of Yukon had many guests as we got ready for the weekend. We said goodbye to Bishop Larry & Sheila Robertson on Friday, the Consecration and Installation of Lesley Wheeler-Dame as the 12th Bishop on Saturday and the ordination to the Priesthood of Elsa Kolm Cheeseman on Sunday. Yep - Blessed Beyond Measure!



Farewells, presents, serenades & plenty of food



Examination by Bishops



Lay leaders, deacons, priests and bishops including local, visiting and ecumenical partners

A few members of +Lesley's family



The Rev. Elsa Kolm Cheeseman with +Lesley & +Larry and Elsa's family.

Members of the Provincial House of Bishops were able to be in attendance for Elsa's ordination.

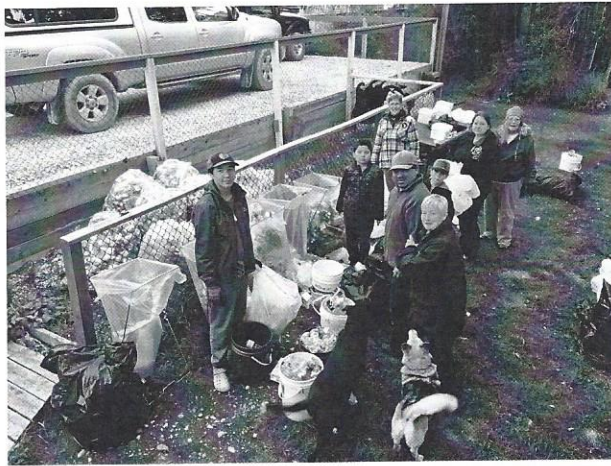




## St. Paul's, Dawson

St. Paul's was busy this summer with their recycling project.

\$500 was sent to PWRDF to support the All Mothers and Children Count project in Africa.



\$500 was sent to PWRDF to support their emergency response for the Bahamas after hurricane Dorian passed through.

\$500 was given to the Thrift Store to help pay for a new window

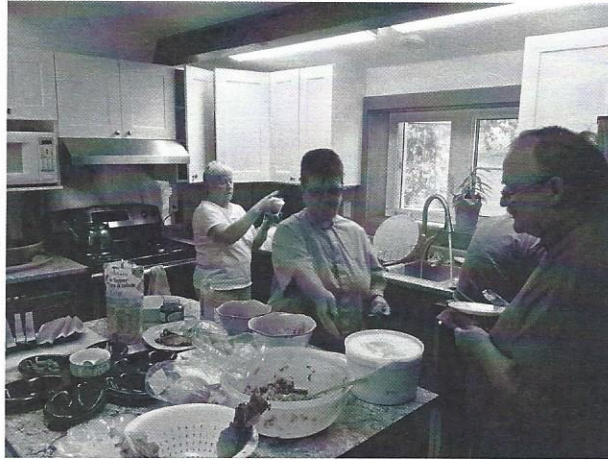




*St. Paul's Dawson cont'd*

Potluck with the Bishop and Bishop-Elect

*On June 26, Bishop Larry and Bishop-Elect Lesley visited with us in the Richard Martin Chapel for our Food and Fun night. The meal was followed by one of St. Paul's summer concerts. The musical artists were brother and sister Rosie and Simon Crelli on violin accompanied by their mother, Marsha, on the piano.*



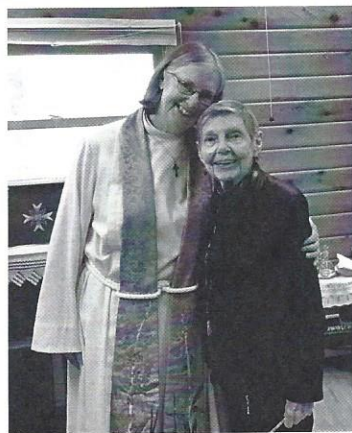
*St. Paul's is made available during the summer for a variety of concerts and artists. The Incredible acoustics make this a perfect location.*

*It is a wonderful gift to the community.*

*St. Paul's Dawson cont'd*



*The Rev. Dn Percy Henry and Lay Reader Mabel Henry receive a blessing from The Rev. Laurie Munro on the occasion of their 62nd wedding anniversary.*

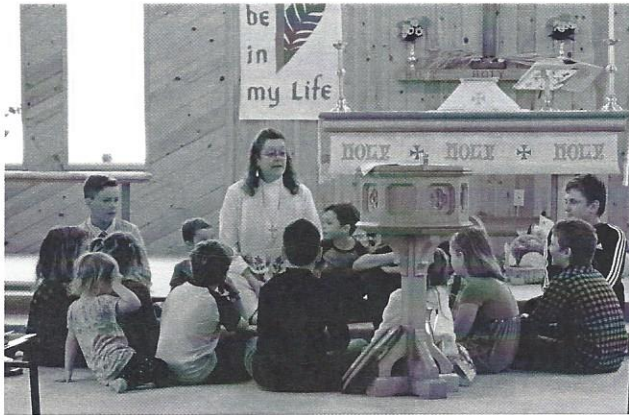


*Blessings for Joyce Caley  
On her 90th birthday*



## Church of the Northern Apostle

### Baptisms



*Children's time;  
Learning about  
being part of the  
Family of God*

*Baptism of  
Leonard Andrew  
Usher and Harrison.  
Michael Usher  
Grandma Usher, Uncle Tom  
Mom Veronica,  
Dad Jonathan  
And Aunty  
Justine*



*Baptism of Greta  
Margaret Gerein.  
Dad Kurtis, Mom  
Meagan, the Ven.  
Sarah Usher, and  
Grandma Linda  
holding Greta's  
hand.*



*Northern Apostles cont 'd*



*A picture worth  
A Thousand Words*

*Baptism of Harvey  
Mason Ronald  
Benoit-Cardinal.  
Great Grampa Eric,  
Great Gramma  
Lesley, Mom  
Felicia, Dad James*



*Hey Great Gramma, you  
might be bishop-elect but  
don't you know,  
That's the wrong end*

Northern Apostles cont'd.

A Wedding



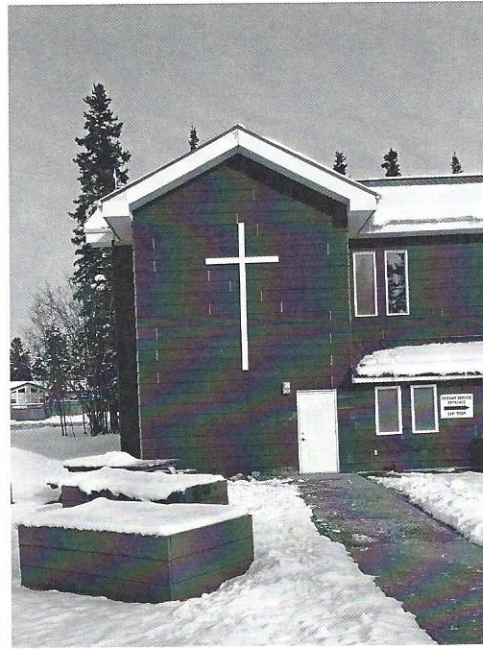
*Archdeacon Sarah Usher was blessed to perform the wedding of her son Jonathan to Veronica in August of this year. It was an outside wedding at Marsh Lake and it was the hottest day of the year. A lovely day for everyone!*





## Maintenance is a Reality

*The Church of the Northern Apostles had to cut a tree in front of the church as the roots were compromising the building. This left a very blank wall and it was decided by the vestry that we should put something there! The addition of this simple cross has really changed the look of the building and shows the public who we are. Thanks to all those who helped with this project!*



*St. John the Baptist in Watson Lake has had a lengthy ongoing job on the rectory. Here they are doing work on the rectory water supply. Licensed lay minister, Tim Liverton who is the incumbent of the parish, maintains that ministry in the diocese requires someone proficient in the three Ps.*



*Prayer, Praise and Plumbing.*



---

## Are We 'Thankful' or Do We 'Giving Thanks'?

This seems to be a bit late, a piece about 'thanksgiving', but should 'thanksgiving' be limited to just one weekend a year? We are being blessed each and every day, by the people we come in contact with, to the situations we find ourselves in, to mundane day-to-day tasks of life; and if we are being blessed, we ought to be thankful each and every day.

Thankfulness is not simply a character trait that some people have, and others don't. I do believe that the vast majority are very thankful people. Yet, is it enough that a person is thankful within themselves? I feel, being thankful is not enough; it is easy to be thankful in our mind, but to be thankful in our heart changes 'thankful' into 'giving thanks', which is a far greater commitment and changes a thoughtful process to something that requires action.

True 'thanksgiving' is not just recognizing we have been blessed, it needs to become a verb—an action word, something we do in our lives. Every time these two are combined—recognition and action—'giving thanks' actually grants a second blessing; the wholeness we feel that comes from establishing, renewing or improving a relationship.

When we receive a blessing and are thankful it is simple and the blessing finds a natural end; but if that blessing instead brings us to an action of 'giving thanks', the second blessing we feel of a new, renewed or improved relationships or...that blessing is from God.

Recently on my way to Whitehorse, I came upon an accident between Steamboat and Tetsa River. The scene looked awful and when I stopped, I was sure I was going to be dealing with serious

---

*Giving Thanks cont'd*

injuries or death; unnecessary to tell you, my anxiety was elevated. What a blessing to see the occupants in one vehicle, mother and children, shaken but not hurt. The occupant of the second vehicle, despite serious damage to the vehicle, was also free of serious injury. Despite all the inconvenience, costly damage and potential injury, there were blessings all around. All I can speak to are the blessings I felt; what a blessing to witness a man overcome with joy that his wife was not dead, what a blessing to see innocent children, unharmed, what a blessing to see the outpouring of care shown by the other civilians who stopped, and the Fire Rescue team, RCMP, and Ambulance personnel who tended to more than damage and injury, but tended with care and love to the damaged souls of all those involved. I am thankful for all of those, and more. But my second blessing was from one woman who also stopped soon after I was on the scene. As a clergy person, I felt the need to ease the suffering of others, to provide counsel to the hurting, to offer spiritual guidance in a very human situation. This one woman, who spoke with an accent, who's name I never learned, provided me with grounding; she eased my anxiety about whether I was meeting everyone's needs, helped me realize I needed to be just one person, with a specific area in which to assist, she provided me counsel that put my soul at ease.

Of all the memories of that event, I know the one thing I will never forget, that is the blessing that woman gave to me, and I pray she felt a blessing from our brief acquaintance as well. But, as I said, 'thankful' is not enough, 'giving thanks' requires an action. The art of writing "thank-you" notes is largely lost on society today; nonetheless, let this 'thank-you note' be my action of 'giving thanks', for that unnamed woman who became as Christ to me, in a situation where I was to be Christ for others.

---

*Giving Thanks cont'd*

There is a world of difference in being 'thankful' for a blessing in our lives and 'giving thanks' for that same blessing. Choose the latter, and you return the blessing to others, and continue to receive blessings yourself; and what does our world need more of than a continual cycle of blessings passing from one person to another.

May all our thankfulness become the action of 'giving thanks'!

In Christ's Love,

Rev. Glen Gough+

Associate Priest

St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church

*The altar at St. John the Baptist; Watson Lake  
Johanna Nugent's gift of praise and thanksgiving*





### Email vs Paper

We try to produce the Northern Lights 2 or 3 times a year. The cost of producing the magazine continues to rise along with the cost of postage. With technology what it is now we have begun to send the magazine out electronically to several people and we post it on our website. It is great to have a hard copy in hand, but if you would like to receive it by email instead of by postal mail please send the Synod office ( [synodoffice@klondiker.com](mailto:synodoffice@klondiker.com) ) your email and current mailing address and we would be happy to switch you to an electronic copy. Another positive is the reduced amount of paper being used. Thank you for considering this option



Northern Lights magazine is published by the Diocese of Yukon. 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.

Subscriptions: \$10.00 or greater donation per year (3 issues per year)

If you would prefer an electronic edition please contact the Diocese

Editor: Dan Davidson email: [uffish@northwestel.net](mailto:uffish@northwestel.net)

Articles, photos and any inquiries including subscriptions, changes of address, donations and correspondence regarding the work of the diocese should be directed to  
Diocese of Yukon, PO Box 31136, Whitehorse, YT. Y1A 5P7

(867) 667-7746 Fax (867) 667-6125

Email: [synodoffice@klondiker.com](mailto:synodoffice@klondiker.com). Web site: <http://anglican.yukon.net>

'like' our Facebook page: "Diocese of Yukon"

Printed by: Arctic Star Printing Whitehorse, Yukon