

# Northern Lights

# 185

The Journal of the  
Anglican Diocese  
of Yukon  
Christmas 2020



## **Ordination of Jeffrey Mackie-Deernsted at Christ Church**

Anne Coates on the organ

Front: The Rev Martin Carroll, Server Jeannie Roches, The Rev. Elsa Kolm Cheeseman, Bishop Lesley Wheeler-Dame, newly ordained The Rev. Dn. Jeffrey Mackie-Deernsted, Licensed Lay Minister Betty Davidson  
Back: The Very Rev. Harold (Bert) Chestnut, Licensed Lay Minister Charles Maier, Licensed Lay Minister Valerie Maier, The Ven. Sarah Usher

# Thank you for Praying

## Day 1 & 16

### Whitehorse: Christ Church Cathedral.

The Very Rev. Bert Chestnut; 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 Rv. Walter Kagura & Primrose; 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; Outreach from Whitehorse  
**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: 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 Rev. Jeffrye Mackie-Deernsted & Natasha; The Rev. Percy Henry. Licensed Lay Ministers: Mabel Henry; Shirley Pennell, Betty Davidson and Natasha Henderson.

## Day 12 & 27

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

## Day 13 & 28

Members of the Diocesan Executive Committee; Diocesan Vice-Chancellor John Vaissi Nagy; Diocesan Prayer Partner: Diocese of Fredericton and Archbishop David Edwards.

## Day 14 & 29

Patti Tetlich, Yukon Apostolate. Bishop's School of Yukon Ministries. PWRDF Representative: Betty Davidson, AFC Representative: Glen Gough, Diocesan ACW President, Blanche Buckle, and all ACW members.

## Day 15 & 30

### Those retired from Missionary Service:

## Day 31 and daily:

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



## A Message from the Bishop

Wow - time for that Christmas issue already. It seems like such a short time ago that I was taking over the *Northern Lights* Christmas issue for our editor while he was waiting for cataract surgery. It was a real struggle for me to pull that together last year. I'm so thankful and feeling very blessed that Dan is well and able to take this back. It has been such a bizarre year that we didn't even get a chance to do another issue before now.

The global pandemic has taken us through some hoops - some real struggles. I think we were the last Diocese in the national church that had to close our church buildings back in March. Since that time we have been learning a lot about video recording and what to do and not to do. We are still learning. We are so blessed to be able to offer weekly recorded services.

Then just as we thought we were doing well at being back to in person worship services, the second wave has hit and we are now wearing masks and still can't sing. We know that Yukon is doing fairly well and yet we also know that it is possible we won't be able to have in person services at Christmas. We are holding our breath on that decision.

Part of the struggles have been in our finances. Donations to the Diocese at end of October are down from \$29,000 last year to \$4,600 this year. Yet we have been blessed to be able to cut back on some of our expenses. We have been able to meet via zoom for executive and recently had our synod via zoom. Although it is not the ideal situation, how blessed that we are able to still gather



and still get on with the business side of being the church. It is entirely possible that we will continue holding some of our meetings via zoom even when we are able to freely travel in safety.

I have been very blessed to have been to Haines Junction, Carcross, Mayo, Dawson City, Fort Nelson, Old Crow and Watson Lake over this past year. We have not been able to do the amount of travel for training that we wanted to do. Yet again, we have been blessed. Parish leaders were able to gather for some conversations together. At synod we were treated to a presentation on Human Trafficking and Modern Day slavery, and just last week I and the parish leaders were led in an Advent Retreat by retired Bishop Barbara Andrews.

As in any other year, there have been ups and downs. I imagine that Mary and Joseph faced very similar struggles and blessings as they headed off to Bethlehem. Maybe not a pandemic but very real struggles for their time, in their

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context. They carried on because they knew they were being called by God to something amazing.

We too are called to something amazing; in our time and in our context. We are called to be the Anglican Church in the Yukon and Northern British Columbia. That calling and work is full of struggles and blessings, that we face together. We are all needed in God's world to do what we are called to do - build kingdom in a way that communicates

God's love for all people and all of the created order.

What will next year bring? The only thing we know for sure: God's infinite love for each and every one of us. May your Christmas be full of joy, love, laughter and Blessings Beyond Measure.

With love to each of you:




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## Waiting? Why?

We have come to the season of Advent. Advent is a wonderful opportunity to consider our preparations for the coming of the One whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. Even more importantly it is an opportunity to ask ourselves what are we doing to prepare for when Christ will come again. It is a time when we hear all around us that question - Are you ready for Christmas? Sometimes I wonder if most people really know the weight of the question they ask as they are doing the asking?

I heard a quote the other day from a colleague in ministry. She had come across it on social media. It was from @RevDaniel who is an Anglican priest at St. John's Dixie in Mississauga. He said, "I sometimes think that Advent is about waiting for the God who is even more patiently waiting for us to stop waiting". What an awesome statement and likely very accurate. What is it we are waiting for? Who is it we are waiting for? Why are we waiting?

Are we waiting for Christ to come again so that we can be in the kingdom of God? I am not normally one who likes to take bits and pieces of scripture and use them out of context. However, in Luke 17 verses 20-21 we read: Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst."

All of Jesus' actions and teachings indicate that the Kingdom of God is now and not yet, is here and is to come, is God's and is ours to build in response to God's incredible love for us in sending the Christ. So perhaps we are not to be waiting for the kingdom. Perhaps instead, we ought to be about being, and living, the kingdom for the world around us. Feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, building up the broken-hearted. Those are the things we can do to communicate to our neighbours that the kingdom of God is at hand.

This time of COVID has definitely highlighted the opportunity and the necessity of the Church being the Church. The opportunity to step back from focussing on our buildings and focus on expressing the love of Christ to the world around us in

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## **Diocesan Synod November 21st via ZOOM**

Members voting at synod. Those on a telephone link show as outlines.

Motions passed included some updates to our canons. The following motions came in response to the Bishop’s Charge

- 1) That we support the Bishop’s Advisory committee who are helping to take note of our resources - people, finances and buildings as we look to our future.
- 2) That the people and parishes strengthen and deepen their commitment to social justice issues in keeping with the Mark of Mission To seek to

transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation.

3) Lay Ministry Licensing - a motion to develop different levels of licensing; one for diocesan lay ministers, one for parish lay ministers and one for lay ministers-in-training.

The following motion also passed: That this synod ask the Bishop of the Diocese of Yukon to consider authorizing the marriage and/or blessing of same sex couples and consider developing guidelines for the same.

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tangible and pragmatic ways is huge. Being the Church and building kingdom is not about Sunday morning. It is about caring for one another. It is about loving one another. It is not about waiting for someone else to do something.

The church describes Advent as a period of expectant waiting and preparation for the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ in the Second Coming. The word advent is also defined in the dictionary as a “coming into being”.

Let’s not wait any longer. Let us be about the work of building the kingdom now, right this very moment.

I wish each and every one of you a truly blessed Advent season as you get on about being the Church in the world. I also wish you a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

With love.

## Tributes to Aldene Snider on her 90th Year

*Submitted by The Ven. Sarah Usher*

As many of you know, Aldene Snider has always been the other half of our late Archdeacon of the Klondike, Ven. Ken Snider. Aldene and Ken dedicated their lives to the work of the church in the north. Whenever you saw Ken, you knew that Aldene was not far behind. I believe she was the glue that made his ministry so effective. They were a team and anyone who met them knew that. They were a wonderful example of Christian life in action and I believe that anyone who knew them was blessed by their presence. Aldene now resides at Copper Ridge Place and suffers from dementia. She continues to be as gracious as ever and is blessed to be well supported by her family members.

I was very privileged to give a special birthday blessing to this wonderful woman whom I have known most of my life. Aldene Snider turned 90 on October 23rd. Thanks to her family she was able to celebrate this occasion in some incredibly unique ways even during this time of pandemic. Her daughter, Grace, sent out a message and asked everyone to send her a card and she is still enjoying all these greetings as they only open one or two greetings per day so as not to overwhelm her. Our Primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls sent her a certificate thanking her for her years of service. The Archbishop of Canterbury's office sent a note that said, "Please do pass on the best wishes and congratulations to your mother from all at Lambeth Palace." All of these messages simply thrilled Aldene and Grace has been faithful in documenting her mother's joy by taking pictures of



*Aldene Snider at Copper Ridge Place*

her with her messages. In each of them we see that beautiful smile that she has always had.

I was also privileged to attend the Yukon Legislature the day before her birthday where they gave a tribute to this amazing woman. Following are some words from two of the three tributes given at the Legislature.

The Honourable Pauline Frost, Executive Council Member and Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister of the Environment and the Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation wrote,

"Born in the 1930s, Aldene has lived an incredible life of service and dedication to others. Aldene and her husband Ken were married in Aklavik in the 1950s.

"Trained as a nurse, Aldene worked in the 50s in Hay River, Northwest Territories where she delivered 30 babies in the community.

"Aldene and Ken moved to Dawson in the 60s where Ken set up a Ministry at the Anglican Church. Despite their many moves across the north, the family con-

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siders Dawson home.

“They became long-term residents and, along with their six children, Ken and Aldene supported generations of families in the community -- through their volunteer work and work in the church.

“When I was a child, Ken would fly up to my community in Old Crow and provide missionary services there. He and Aldene were well-respected amongst the Gwitch’in Nation as they both had an amazing sense of humour and love for one another.

“I remember going to church with my cousin during his services. As Ken was delivering his sermon he would often pause in his delivery of his speech, look at his wife sitting in the front pew and loudly say ‘Is that right, Aldene?’ and she would firmly answer back, ‘That’s right, Ken.’

“Aldene was, and is, the matriarchal support behind her family, leading, guiding and keeping everyone on track.

“She is an iconic figure to the Thrift Shop in Dawson, where she volunteered for a collective total of 25 years.

“During her time at the thrift shop Aldene worked devotedly to keep the space in order, but also provided an open door and a safe place with a compassionate ear for anyone in need.

“No matter someone’s ability to pay, Aldene always ensured those who visited her thrift shop left with what they needed.

“The family had an open door policy in their home. The door was always unlocked for anyone who needed a warm place to sleep and something to eat. Many family members and relatives from the Gwitch’in community would arrive unannounced and were always welcomed.

“To honour this incredible woman, and manage a celebration during the pandemic, her family has asked for birthday

cards. As of yesterday, 64 cards had been sent, and the cards continue to arrive.

“What a testament to a life of service, care and compassion to others. To her family and the community of Dawson she was the glue that held it all together.

“On the eve of her 90th birthday, I offer Mahsi Cho to Aldene Snider for her lifetime of contributions to our territory, and to my community of Old Crow.

“Happy Birthday Aldene.”

Geraldine Van Bibber, Former Commissioner of Yukon and current MLA Porter Creek North wrote,

“I rise today on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to pay tribute to Aldene Snider who will be celebrating her 90th birthday tomorrow, October 23.

“I vividly remember Mrs. Snider bringing her children down the church aisle, wearing their Sunday best, getting them settled in the pews and keeping the peace while her husband completed his Sunday service.

“To have such a young family, the Sniders brought a different energy to our church and they immediately became involved in the community.

“Her daughter, Grace, wrote a piece in the *Whitehorse Star* last Friday about her mother and her love of and her tireless work for the St. Paul’s Thrift Shop. It was called ‘I found my mom in the thrift shop’ with a byline – to honour my mom, Aldene Snider on her 90th birthday.

“Loved reading it as my experience in that thrift shop was very similar and I could relate to many aspects of the story. It even brought the smell of those bales of clothes back to my memory.

“Mrs Snider worked diligently for the good of the church community and I am sure home was always a busy, noisy place

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*Aldene Snider receives her Commissioner's Award for Public Service from Commissioner Geraldine Van Bibber in June 2010.*

with five, then six, children.

"I admire her quietness and ready smile. When she walked down the wooden sidewalks in Dawson, she walked with purpose and looked like she had something to attend to as soon as possible.

"As Grace said, her mom is an introvert and is most happy out of the spotlight, unlike her gregarious husband, who teased and joked easily.

"In 2009, they were chosen to be Mr and Mrs Yukon, it was so lovely to see them recognized for their Yukon contributions by the Yukon Order of Pioneers. They dressed in their Klondike outfits with sashes across their shoulders – Mr. Yukon and Mrs. Yukon. Always with huge smiles!

"In June 2010 at the Commissioner's Tea, I was honoured to present each the Commissioner's awards for community service and all their years of giving to people of the North.

"Mrs Snider now resides in Copper Ridge Place, and Grace has become innovative on how to keep in contact during this pandemic. Grace has been the

voice for her mother and has made sure that Mrs Snider relives the memories and stories she lived.

"I will share part of what I wrote in my card to Mrs Snider – 'There are connections one makes in life and I have such fond memories of the Snider family.

"We all forget things as we age and we all change - sometimes slightly or sometimes a lot, but know that you have such a beauty that shines through – keep smiling, Aldene.'

"Happy Birthday!"



*Angela Rout painted this portrait of Aldene working in the Thrift Shop.*



## A Message from the Dean's Desk

I am sitting here this morning thinking about the Advent Season we are presently in. It's dark outside, just outside my office the cathedral is in darkness except for two (2) small candles lighted on the altar, helping me to remember those who are affected by COVID-19 and the many, many people who offer up themselves in the presence of harm and viral danger to care for the sick and needy. They are the true angels of the season. I have spent a great deal of time reflecting back on this year, wondering what all this is about and where it may be taking us as a civilization. I don't think I need to say out loud that part of me would like to just write off 2020, but then there is another part of me that needs to look at the mercies and graces that have been offered selflessly to us throughout this difficult time. In St. Matthew's gospel the great commission reminds us that we are never alone:-

*Matthew 28:18-20 18: Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

The following is the opinion of the writer and no one else, certainly not the Anglican Church of Canada. Maybe, just maybe, we needed the pause button to be pushed so that we had opportunity to step outside ourselves and reassess life and creation around us. We spend so much time, as a society, looking after our own selfish needs, while we give very little time to considering creation or even those who are less fortunate than we are. God created this beautiful blue marble, we call our island home full of plants, animals and, of course, the first beings. Even with God's clear instructions, humans spent no time proving we were capable of hearing other voices than God's, and what was the result...our downfall and removal from the Garden. Humankind have spent endless generations destroying God's perfection; in fact, we are reminded of the flood story when God destroyed all but eight (8) people so that the world could begin again. Still God's messages have gotten lost in the "busy-ness" of the day.

Covid has got the attention of the entire world and given us an opportunity to be thankful for what we have, including our health, but most of all, each other. I was commenting only recently that I am not a fan of masks because they separate us on several levels, yet they are necessary for the times. We all need to be a little more thankful for what we have and cherish. We need show a little more love for those around us, especially those we find difficult to love.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas, a blessed Advent season with hearts full of love for the people and the marvelous creation around us. May we all enter into 2021 carrying with us the joy, hope and love of the Advent season which has a tendency to grow our hearts just a little bigger.

God Bless, stay safe,

**Dean H.A. (Bert) Chestnut**

Christ Church Cathedral, Whitehorse

## Blessed Beaders Celebrate in Mayo

by Val and  
Charles Maier

For more than a century the people of Mayo have beautified their church with furnishings that reflect their love for the Creator, for the land, as well as their amazing talent as beaders and crafters.



*Joanne Buyck poses with a new 'superfrontal'*

In 2019 the church in Mayo received funding from the Yukon and Na-Cho Nyak Dun First Nation governments to open-up to visitors. Members of the parish were encouraged to practise traditional crafts while engaging with tourists. Faced with the question of what to work on, the decision was taken to continue the century-old tradition of creating furnishings to decorate the church. They eventually took the name, the Blessed Beaders.

Work continued through the summer of 2020, but with COVID in the air, opening the church to visitors was out of the question. Elders worked in family groups with less experienced crafters, handing-on traditional crafts to a new generation of beaders.

Some of the crafters remember the old Church of St. Mark, built downstream and across the Stewart River from present-day Mayo. The Rev. Julius Kendi encouraged the establishment of a First Nation settlement there in 1915, and one of the first buildings erected was the church. His daughter Mary and others in the parish worked there to create a full set of furnishings, including beaded hangings, or 'frontals' for the altar, pulpit and lectern.

In the 1950s highway construction brought an end to commercial river traffic and authorities closed the 'Old Village' that had grown-up around St. Mark's church. Residents were moved to Mayo where the Church of St. Mary had been built in 1922, and the two parishes merged.

A new altar for St. Mary's church was found larger than St. Mark's, so for many years the prized altar frontal from the Old Village did not quite fit. The Blessed Beaders determined to fix this. They created 'superfrontals' or special coverings for the top of the altar. They crafted four of these in liturgical colours. Beaders also made daffodil pins to support the Canadian Cancer Society and 'REDress' pins recognizing murdered and missing indigenous women. A book was also published documenting the project.

In October Bishop Lesley Wheeler-Dame and Na-Cho-Nyak Dun Chief Simon Mervyn joined to celebrate the achievements of nearly two years of amazing artistry. At a special service in the church, the beaders handiwork was blessed and a special presentation made to Chief Mervyn.

Mary Kendi died in 2000, but a granddaughter used some surviving examples of Mary's beadwork on the superfrontal she fashioned on a moosehide backing. After positioning her work in the chancel she said, "It is good to see Grandma back in church."



*Na-Cho Nyak Dun Chief Simon Mervyn receiving a presentation from the Blessed Beading project.*



*Bishop Lesley Wheeler-Dame celebrates 'Blessing the Beading' in Mayo.*



*Mayo beaders at work creating superfrontals for their church*

### Valerie Maier receives The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers



*Charles, Val, Bishop Lesley and Chief Simon Mervyn*



*As part of the celebration of the Beading Project, it was announced that Val had received this award. The actual medal arrived later in Whitehorse.*



*Charles and Val at a community dinner originally called to mark their departure, but changed to celebrate that they're staying.*

### A Visit to Keno

*On a beautiful fall day in early October, after having spent the weekend installing Jeffrey in St. Paul's and being present with the people of Mayo to celebrate the Blessed Beading Project, Bishop Lesley and husband Eric Dame drove to Keno. Here is Eric in front of the church at Keno. The building is being used by the community as a library and meeting space for community groups.*





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# Watson Lake's Thrift Shop is 50



*St. John the Baptist Thrift Shop celebrated 50 years of serving the community of Watson Lake this past summer. Here is Cassandra Hanchar the summer student. Cassandra does a wonderful job - perhaps it comes from her grandmother Alice Kalles.*



*Pictures of the Thrift shop float for the Discovery Days Parade. 50 years open. Dianne Amann and Cassandra Hanchar were dressed as Ewok, throwing candy out to the kids*



## John and Riitta Vaissi Nagy



John and Riitta Vaissi Nagy spent part of the summer in Watson Lake with St. John the Baptist. John is a Master of Divinity student with St. Paul's University in Ottawa, ON. They arrived in Yukon and then had to self-isolate in the Old Log Rectory because of pandemic requirements. The community of Watson Lake did such an awesome job of welcoming them that they are planning to return for the summer of 2021.

John wears another hat as well. His background is law and Bishop Lesley has appointed Mr. Vaissi Nagy as the Diocesan Vice-Chancellor effective late November 2020.

# A Central African Christmas

By Don Cheeseman

As I drove a lady from Fort McPherson to church this morning at 10:00 the sun rise was pink and full of promise in a

on the afternoon of Christmas Eve. The stores were just closing down for the holidays. We managed to allow our two sons to visit the, now, near depleted, toy department to ogle the meagre selection of toys, never seen in Zambia. They



mostly clear sky. It seemed to be the same sky as I saw in a setting sun on Christmas Eve a long time ago.

On Dec.24, 1971, our first long-leave from missionary teaching at the Copperbelt, University (Then Zambia Institute of Technology) was almost over. It was the day before Christmas. We were hurriedly driving our Volkswagen, station wagon, called a Variant in African and E411 in Canada, north through Zimbabwe as fast as we could, to be back 1160 kilometres north to Zambia by New Years day.

We arrived in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe,

understood we had no extra money or space for anything but very small gifts in our tightly packed very small station wagon. However, they were encouraged to pick out Christmas gifts for each member of the family. We left Bulawayo centre, driving the forty or so kilometres back south to Matopos National Park.

We arrived in the park as the sunset. We quickly found suitable a campsite beside a towering five-metre-high egg-shaped granite rock. This was not an oddity, as the park was full

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of protruding egg-shaped rocks. We could see no sign of other campers. We four, all gathered wood in the nearby bush for the night, being careful not to put our hands anywhere that a scorpion or small snake may be resting before it's nightly hunt. The boys cleared a fire-place in the cream coloured coarse quartz sand at the base of our now claimed rock. They carefully levelled three larger dried logs each 120 degrees from one another that would feed the small Bantu type fire. The boys competently lit and tended the fire in a safe responsible manner, while a proud dad watched discreetly, while inflating, with lung power, the three air mattresses that made up our sleeping arrangements within the small station wagon.

The night was calm and skies were clearer than glass. The air was perfumed by the flowering tree as the short rains were over. While squatting around the small fire, the boys roasted lengths of bratwurst sausages on green sticks they had competitively fashioned, while my wife rested our battered war-surplus mess tin of maize meal, nshima, (*The African stiff cornmeal porridge*), on the top of the three logs, while constantly stirring until it was cooked and thickened. (*Maize meal was our staple travel food as it was light to carry and we had not seen potatoes in Zambia.*) We ate and cleaned up in the early evening.

The stars appeared one by one seeming especially bright as the last vestiges of the day light sank quickly from warm reddened sky to utter blackness shortly after six o'clock. Our rock backdrop, gently radiating the now-welcome heat of the day as well as firelight. We sang Christmas carols. My wife and I took turns reading out-loud the Christmas story.

The boys were so excited they wanted to stay up to get their presents at midnight. We knowingly agreed to do so. We banked up the fire with more wood, and

read until the boys, now in their pyjamas, curled up on the sand, in front of the fire to drifted off to sleep. My wife and I stretched out close together on the still-warm sand. On our backs, we marvelled at the beauty of the night. We held hands, both wonder-filled to be outside under the stars on this warm Christmas Eve. Struck dumb by the magnitude of the Milky Way silently drifting directly above us in an endless procession across our view, we remained in reverent silence.

After many minutes, a lion roared from a great distance away. A hyena seemed to answer. That earthly sound broke the spell.

It was now a few minutes before midnight. We returned to the light of the campfire to add wood to the glowing embers. We looked down on our two sleeping boys. We were very moved by the peace of the moment.

We gently carried them to their awaiting air mattresses.

We all slept with a God-given gift of great peace. We awoke shortly after dawn's light at six on Christmas morning. I got up first to cook cornmeal porridge and scrambled eggs over the resurrected fire that still had coals from the previous night. At seven the boys were fully awake, when we shared the small gifts, that we had bought each other. The emotion of the moment filled my eyes with tears of joy and appreciation as we wished each other, "Merry Christmas". We hugged and held hands as we all gave thanks for all around us.

Christ was born!





## Events at St. Paul's



*Installation at St. Paul's, with vestry members. L-R: Kathy Webster, Shirley Pennell, Chris Collin, new Lay Minister Natasha Henderson, Rev. Dn. Jeffrey Mackie-Deernsted, Bishop Lesley Wheeler-Dame, Betty Davidson, Brenda Caley.*



*Eccumenical World Day of Prayer Service at the Dawson Community Chapel.*



*Baptism at St. Paul's  
For Dylan's and Heather's baby,  
Ripply.*



*Kids at World Day of Prayer  
L-R: Charlie Brennan, Khloe Wylie,  
Heather and Jack McDonald.*



*Recycling Project Helpers:  
Nicholas, Noah and Elise Cortes-  
McCormack.*



*Natasha and Jeffrey with celebratory  
cake at Christ Church.*



*Singing Group in February at Richard Martin Chapel  
Nicholas, Khloe, Charley, Jack, Noah, Maya Hughes, Faren Brennan*



*Fixing a bog hole and  
the foundation at  
Stringer House last  
summer. Work was also  
completed inside includ-  
ing overdue painting.*



*These angels were part of  
a fund raiser for work to  
be done for St, Barnabas  
at Moosehide.*



## Sacred Stitches at Christ Church



Photo by The Rev Elsa Kolm Cheeseman

The prayer shawl ministry of Sacred Stitches continues to meet during this time of pandemic through the outreach ministries of Christ Church Cathedral in Whitehorse. The group has been meeting under the watchful eye of The Rev. Elsa Kolm Cheeseman and have been observing all safety protocols. These prayer shawls are given out in a variety of places and through recommendations from the community.

In the Photo, L-R: Lynn LeBarge, Bishop Lesley and Elaine Sumner.

Bishop Lesley had just finished praying over, and blessing the shawls for distribution and the group presented her with the shawl she is wearing.

## 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 began several years ago to use the option of sending 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@northwestel.net](mailto:synodoffice@northwestel.net)) your email and current mailing address and we would be happy to switch you to an electronic copy. Other advantages are that the photos are in colour and the size of the pages can be enlarged to increase the print size. The best viewing would be on a full sized tablet or a laptop computer. Another positive is the reduced amount of paper being used.

Thank you for considering this option.

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