

Prayer Report for September

Dear friends:

I have waited until the end of September to be able to more fully report to you some exciting events that have happened and some exciting ministries that are beginning and need your prayer. I pray that this letter will be a blessing to you and that through your prayers, you will continue to be a blessing to the Diocese of Yukon.

Family

We have made ourselves comfortable in our new home. Over the months we have unpacked our pictures and hangings and are still doing so. Each of these brings memories of the past for which we give thanks. I unearthed one (a framed newspaper clipping) that has our youngest, Timothy, standing in front of a food vender on an obviously hot sunny day. Tim was around 6 years old then (now 26). Smiling broadly, he was wearing the largest pair of round sunglasses that you could possibly get on a face that size. They must have belonged to his mother; they covered most of his face. The picture was taken on a family vacation in Kinmount, Ontario while visiting my brother. Realizing that Tim is now in Seoul, Korea, teaching English to six year old children I have decided to put that picture up near my desk where I can see it. Our oldest boy, David, continues to work at the Salvation Army in Yellowknife. Our middle child, Jonathan, works in Whitehorse as an electrician. He and his wife Tara are with us while they find a place to live. Sheila continues to work part time with the Government and gets involved in the Church as a lay reader.

I have discovered I am not much of a farmer. I planted a few potatoes and carrots in the small garden in the yard. I ended up with about as many potatoes as I planted and the carrots are rather small, although tasty. Better luck next year.

New Arrivals

I look to this coming year with excitement as we are being joined by 3 new people in our diocesan family.

Rev. Laurie Munro

Rev. Munro has been with the diocese over the last two summers and has just finished her studies at Wycliffe College. Last fall she was ordained deacon by **Archbishop Terry Buckle** (ret.). On September 11 she was ordained a priest in the Church at Christ Church Cathedral in Whitehorse. It truly was a lovely moment in time. She has been appointed to look after the parishes of **St. Paul's in Dawson City** and **St. Luke's in Old Crow**. She will have good support teams in both places and we look with expectation to what God will do in the future in these places.

Rev. Steve Martin

Rev. Martin comes to us from downtown Toronto where he was working the last 10 years for "Sanctuary". This is an organization that works with the poor, the unfortunates, and the street people of downtown Toronto. This is the area where I grew up as a boy and can tell you that it would not have been an easy ministry. Steve has moved to Mayo and looking after **St. Mary's with St. Marks in Mayo** and **St. James the Lord's Brother in Pelly Crossing**. These small communities will be a big change in ministry and Steve will need the Lord's guidance to succeed. Because of our lack of funds Steve will be working on a ½ time basis with the Diocese. Steve's wife **Michelle** will be joining him in the spring after she finishes her training social work and having their first child in April.

Mrs. Lynn De Brabandere

Mrs. De Brabandere comes to us from farm country in Ontario to be part of a new ministry called "**Ministry of Presence**". These are volunteers who come up for a minimum of a year and be the presence of Christ in communities where there is no minister. The diocese and parish provides accommodations, travel and ministry costs while the person is with the diocese. Their ministry will vary outside of Sunday services depending on their training and abilities. Lynn has worked in children ministries and as a pastoral care worker. Lynn has moved to **Haines Junction** and will be looking after **St. Christopher's**. When I took her down to her first Sunday Service in the parish she was delighted with the music ministry there and was anxious indeed to get started.

When I look at our Diocesan ministry family I am pleased with the variety. We have **Capt. Rob Langmaid** who is just finishing his first year of ministry and **Archdeacon Sean Murphy** who has been with the diocese his whole ministry of over 20 years. You have locally raised and trained ministers like **Rev. Mary Battaja** and **Rev. Marian Schafer** as well as Seminary trained **Rev. Laurie Munro** from B.C. We have those like **Lynn De Brabandere** who is exploring a second career and people like me who's whole working life has been ministry or preparing for it.

I am excited because I believe this small ministry team has the talent and faith to do great things for God in the Yukon. I am thankful for **Rev. Sarah Usher** who is our administrative officer and allows me to have the time to concentrate of pastoral care of the diocese which is of upmost importance for a Bishop. Just listen to some of the things that happened during the summer, a time when the Church is traditionally silent.

Historical Evening prayers - These extra services in **Dawson City** and **Whitehorse** proclaimed the works of God as He worked though the various Christian Leaders of the past. We heard stories of

Archdeacon Robert McDonald, blind Rev. Richard Martin, Bishop Bompas and many more including, of course, Bishop Isaac Stringer "the Bishop who ate his boots"

Cathedral Lunches - These were lunches on Tuesdays inviting the community to come and eat together. Sometimes they brought their lunch and sometimes lunch was provided. It was a time for business people as well as street people to come and have lunch together. There was always something for everyone to eat.

The Horn of Africa Famine and Drought Relief Fund - this fund was started by the diocese as an opportunity for people of the Yukon to help those starving and dying in the devastating drought in Africa. As of the Government's deadline for giving equal amounts, the people of the Yukon had raised over \$27,000. This means over \$54,000 dollars will be given because of this fund. Way to go Yukon!

Some Matters for Prayer

Executive Meeting - October 15 - 16 - We will be having a long term planning section.

Bishop's Discretionary Fund - Used for such things as helping ministers as they move to start over in a new parish, supplying materials to parishes, helping with travel costs and start up money for parish ministries like youth or the elderly and for numerous coffees with people. It is getting low and is only added to by means of gifts earmarked for it.

Native Ministries - we will be having a long term planning meeting for this important ministry after Thanksgiving.

I am conscience of the length of this letter and will bring it to an end. I thank you for taking the time to pray for us. It is felt and it sustains us in all that we do here in Yukon.

Check out our **Webpage** and **Facebook** page.

Blessing in Christ,

+Larry

Bishop Larry Robertson

PS: Hope you like the pictures...the first few are of Laurie's ordination and the last two are Tuesday Lunches at the Cathedral and raising money for Horn of Africa Famine and Drought Relief Fund