

Yellowknife United Church Newsletter

Winter 2014

A Reflection on Internship and the Story of an Opportunity

One of the most important relationships on the journey towards ordered ministry is the one that is created when a congregation takes a step to become a learning site. As we discover in situations of lifelong learning, every partner in the relationship is gifted with the opportunity to grow and learn. That was certainly the case in my internship which remarkably was twenty-five years ago. I say 'remarkably' because many aspects, situations and learnings from my year of internship are still with me, a sign of how critical they are to pastoral identity and the close relationship between supervisor and intern that is crucial to the desire in the wider church for an educated clergy. Practical experience is always a great way to apply theory to praxis and as the old adage goes "walk the talk".

Of course, it is not just the intern-supervisor relationship that is critical. It is also the relationship between congregation and intern that puts learning to the forefront for both parties. It is a wonderful way for a congregation to learn more about their identity and to form new visions of how they might live out the gospel in interesting and authentic ways.

In January 2013, we were contacted by Alison Mock, a student at Emmanuel College, a United Church of Canada theological college which is part of the Toronto School of Theology at the University of Toronto. She was interested in doing a four month internship in a northern setting. She chose Yellowknife because of family connections. It didn't work out in the time frame she first proposed – September 2013, but her great interest in northern ministry prompted her to postpone her internship by a year in order to keep Yellowknife open as an option. I've been in pretty regular touch with her as Yellowknife United Church moved from 'unlikely' to 'likely' in the journey towards hosting this internship, and when I was in Ontario last June to complete the clearing of my mother's house, Alison made a journey from her home to Peterborough to meet with me.

On February 16, 2014, a budget was approved that included funding for Yellowknife United Church to be a Supervised Ministry Site – in other words to host an internship. Now we need to have our application approved and some other details need to be worked out, but it is looking quite likely that in September we will have Alison with us to serve as part of a ministry team from September 1 to December 31, 2014.

We could not have accomplished this without some hard work and some important contributions. Alison approached her home congregation and they have committed to a fundraising effort that is expected to raise at least \$5,000 as a donation towards the internship. This is a very unusual and somewhat humbling contribution, as it is Yellowknife United Church that will receive the benefit of Alison's presence. I would hope that we would find it possible to do the same if we are ever in the situation of having a candidate serving an internship in some other place in the country. In addition, we have been very blessed by the promise of housing for four months. This came as a result of an opportunity presented to Northern Property REIT to consider donating housing for the time of the internship. We can thank Jim Britton, a former member of Yellowknife United Church, and now the CEO of Northern Property REIT.

As I said earlier, the opportunity to host an internship is a precious opportunity to have a deeper exploration of ministry for congregation, intern and supervisor alike. It is a prime example of the importance of education and reflection as a part of ministry and an important piece of the vital educational process for ministers in the church.

We can look forward to four months of insight, challenge and learning!

Peter Chynoweth

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Yellowknife United Church
Northern United Place Auditorium
Tuesday March 4, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Tickets available at the door:
\$7.00 per person, children under 5 free
All are welcome!

Christmas Pageant Prayers of the People

On December 22nd, a participatory Christmas pageant involved the entire congregation. Adults chose between joining the children acting in the nativity, singing in a pick-up choir led by Elizabeth Brace or writing the Prayers of the People. Eight people – Janice Daly, John Himmelman, Marie Wilson, Barb Paquin, Sean Daly, Brenda MacLeod, Elaine Stewart and Margaret Melhorn – elected to write the prayer. By dividing into four groups of two, the prayer writers were able to compose the four sections of the prayer in about 20 minutes. Although the four duos did not have time to hear each other's sections before reading them to the congregation, we thought the resulting prayer fit together beautifully. See if you agree



The collective writing of the Prayers of the People

Creator God, Newet'sine, in this season of gift giving, we are reminded of the greater gifts of our lives. We know that each of our lives is a unique gift of creation, eternal and ever-unfolding, in ourselves, in our relationships and in the land, animals and water around us. We live in a part of your earth when the darkness reminds us of the great promise and the teachings of the Christmas Story. As we move from hope, peace, joy, and love, we have confidence on the journey of the promise of returning light and new beginnings.

In this cold time, we are thankful for the warmth of family and friendships, for our church community and for the bright faces of the children. We are thankful for family members who are back with us after a time of working or learning. We are thankful to enjoy warm houses and food that is only as far away as a fridge or the grocery store. We are thankful for the freedom to make choices, and for a church community that provides the opportunity to express our gifts, extend our care, and to receive the gifts of others. We are particularly thankful for the gifts of music in this congregation and for the people who bring that about.

Creator, we remember those whose basic needs go unmet. Those who are homeless, those who lack good food, clean water, income, heat, and a supportive community. We pray for those who struggle with illness whether physical, mental or spiritual. We remember also the caregivers who work tirelessly to support them. We pray for those on a journey to define their sexual gender identity, may they find love and support in this community. We pray for those who struggle to define the church in the world. Guide us as we ponder what worship, pastoral care and outreach will look in our church, in all churches in the years to come. We remember now the displaced, without home or country. Those refugees of war or natural disasters, be with them God. Creator, we pray for our world, our earth, our atmosphere. When our practices threaten our clean water, clean air, wild life and humans alike, help us to find a balance to work for sustainability to remember the stewardship role we have been given.

Send us forth in the spirit of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love to work with others both young and old in this season of birth and renewal. Moving forward in our mission to provide help, healing and guidance. Challenging ourselves and others with a vision of positive change with passion of personal commitment to widen our circle of care to our world, our communities and families.

Proclaiming a time of faithful witness for all.

YKUC Winter Activities



Brenda, Peter, Cynthia and Kathy assisting in the making of YKUC's famous pepper jelly.



Christmas Advent Wreath



YKUC's three Emilys



The Christmas Pageant



The Christmas Pageant



Christmas Eve Service

YKUC Winter Activities (continued)



YKUC Choir participates in a carol sing at Javaroma in December



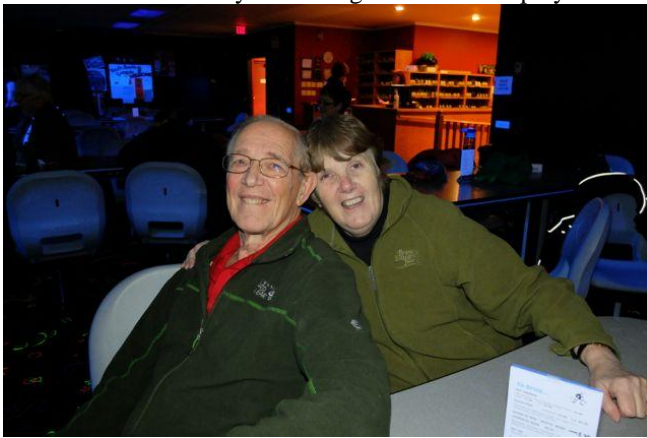
Jamie lighting the worship candles



Jamie and Anya admiring the Affirm display



YKUC Bowling Night



YKUC Bowling Night



YKUC Bowling Night Winners - Sarah, Emery and Emily

The Community Life and Membership Committee wants to hear from you!

The following link is to a survey about the newsletter. We are hoping you will take a few minutes to answer some short questions that will help us improve the newsletter.

If you would prefer answering the questions on paper, copies of the questions are also available on the 'side' table on Sundays.

Thank you in advance for your input!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/76ZGKHR>

Time to start thinking about spring cleaning!

Remember those unwanted, unused, un-needed items could be another person's treasure. We will be holding our annual garage sale on **Saturday, April 26th**. It's a great opportunity to weed out your house and has the added benefit of helping the church.

It is one of our major fund raisers for the year. In 2013 we raised \$1,700 which was used towards local church operations.

Grab your calendar and mark the evening of Friday April 25th for set-up and the morning of Saturday April 26th for the sale! Watch for the volunteer sign-up sheets to be posted early April.

If you would like more information, please contact Marg Henderson at 873-4428 or margh@theedge.ca.

In the fall of 2013, Arlene and Mark Cliffe-Phillips celebrated the baptism of their son, Kieran Cliffe-Phillips.



Mark and Kieran



When I lived in Cambridge Bay and led worship services at St George's Anglican mission, the congregation was small yet surprisingly representative of the Christian faith. On any given Sunday, the pews held folks who grew up in the United Church, the Mennonite Community, the Methodist Church, the Catholic Church, the Presbyterian Church, and the Baptist Church. There was only one actual Anglican. So, theologically speaking, I couldn't really ever get it right or wrong.

Upon my return to the United Church, my sense of homecoming was acute and reinforced by the welcome I experienced at the Worship Committee. I felt very much humbled by the invitation to participate by contributing to worship services. However, I also felt that perhaps it was time to actually acquire some knowledge and training. When Lloyd Henderson told me about the Lay Worship Leader certificate course through St. Stephen's College at the University of Alberta, it was perfect timing.

I have now completed two of the six modules in the course. Each module is taught over the course of a weekend at St. Stephen's in Edmonton. The Introductory module included teaching about how to bring together the various components of a United Church service and the things that can be done to enhance the worship experience. We also talked about how each of us brings our own life experience to the leading of worship and reflected upon the impact of this.

On February 1st and 2nd the module focused on the topic of theology. Who knew theology could be taught in a weekend!! To be honest, I am still working on getting my head around many of the concepts that were introduced. Our work used the Theological Worlds Inventory developed by Paul Jones, it is a fascinating way to understand how different people have differing theological approaches. Just doing the Inventory (which is basically a questionnaire) provokes a lot of thought and discussion, I would be happy to share that document with anyone who is interested.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Board who wrote a letter of support to facilitate my admission to the program. The UCW has also provided financial support, as has Northern Lights Presbytery. I am also very pleased that I amassed so many Aeroplan points when I lived in Nunavut! Most of all, I am so very thankful to be a part of the worship family at YKUC where each Sunday I get to experience my own sense of renewal and hope.

Karen Wilford

United Church Women News

The Yellowknife United Church Women (UCW) would like to offer a big thank you to the whole congregation for supporting the Annual Christmas Tea & Bake Sale, including the donation of supplies and/or the making of our antipasto and pepper jelly in the lead up to the Tea.

With your help we raised approximately \$3,000 which will be used to help support the life and work of the church locally, nationally and internationally.

There are three more activities in our year and we invite anyone to come out and join us:

March 10/14 6:30 p.m. - Annual Kitchen clean-up - remember many hands make light work all volunteers welcome!

Apr. 26/14 8:00 a.m. - Garage Sale - volunteers to assist the UCW with selling muffins, bannock, cookies and coffee are needed.

June 9/14 6:30 p.m. - Year-end pot luck and penny auction hosted by Gwyneth Davis – a great opportunity for food, fellowship and fun for the women in the congregation.

Youth Group



Elaine preparing material for the Youth Group to make gift bags

The Youth Group (YG) was busy in Advent with special projects that will support the wider community. At a community craft sale held at NUP, the Youth raised over \$500 selling hot beverages, cookies, muffins and bannock. The YG also had a booth at the craft sale selling beautiful cloth Christmas bags, handmade ornaments (made by Janice Daly) and refreshments. All funds raised were in support of BETTY House and “Warm Feet for the Street”. There were no fixed prices for the refreshments – people were invited to simply make a donation. It was heartening to hear so many people remark that it was good to see young people raising money for something that was not for them, but for others. In fact, in the very last half hour of the craft show, many people who had their own booths at the event came by to make healthy donations – the jar started filling up with \$5, \$10 and \$20 dollar bills! It felt like a Christmas miracle!

In early December some YG members, led by Karen Hamre, went shopping to collect all the items needed for their contribution to “Warm Feet for the Street”. The following Sunday morning, we had a large group of youth on hand to fill not only their eight socks, but all the Outreach Committee’s socks as well. We quickly organized to efficiently “load” all the sock with toiletries, coupons, edible treats, and special ‘extras’ such as pen, note pad, mitts, etc.

Big thanks to all the adults who supported the YG in these projects. We are grateful to those who helped with sewing, baking and providing items to sell at the craft fair.



The Youth Group filling socks for the Warm Feet for the Street program