

# The Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior

Anglican Church of Canada

## BISHOP BARBARA'S BULLETIN

**July 27, 2017**

*"APCI walk together with all God's people, journeying into a new creation, and trusting with faith and courage in the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We love as Jesus loves, living with integrity and openness, and are committed stewards of God's world."*

### **Bishop's Message**

Like many in our Territory, I watch daily for news of the wildfire situation within our Territory. Last night, news of a new out of control fire near Monte Lake caught us all off guard, once again highlighting to us just how vulnerable we are during this hot and dry summer.

It is important for all of us to be on the lookout for those who are in need of assistance with physical needs, emotional needs and spiritual support. The ministry of presence and listening is a gift we give to those who are most effected by the challenges of these uncertain days. These needs are often identified in surprising way to us. At the Cathedral the other day, I offered food, drink, and other items to one of the evacuees who had dropped in to the Hospitality Centre. She declined all and said what she needed more than anything was a quiet, dark place to have an afternoon nap. A mat was found and she had a refreshing nap for most of the afternoon. Do not be afraid to ask what people really need from us.

I am aware of the number of our parishioners, some despite being displaced themselves, that are volunteering to help others and ensuring immediate needs are being met as best we can. Thank you for putting your best effort toward helping our neighbours.

I am pleased that Bishop Gordon Light has taken over managing the PWRDF response to the wildfires within the Territory. An initial donation has been made to us of \$5000.00. We have disbursed those funds to clergy and parishioners to respond to immediate needs of those who are most affected. We have also received a number of individual and parish donations from across the country. We are putting together a plan to use these funds for a long term response as we are aware of those who have lost homes, property and livelihoods. If you see a need, please let us know so that we can help you respond in appropriate ways.

I invite you to keep a watchful eye on the Territory of the People website as each day new stories, news and information is being posted and encourage you send your stories to be posted. I am grateful for our Dean who came back off holidays early to ensure that we had a strong team overseeing the ministry of the Territory of the People.

In times of challenge like this, it is often the small things that bring us the assurance of God's presence in the midst of troubled times. For me it is a picture of the little Anglican Church, St John of the Latin Gate, on the Ashcroft Reserve. When fire surrounded the church, destroying much around it, the little church was left standing alone. It serve as a symbol of God's presence in the face of great challenge and our need to be aware that we are God's hands in the world today and we are called into actions for our neighbour who have lost much and need our help.

Be at prayer, and respond with actions.

Blessings,

+Barbara



## **Announcements**

An invitation is extended to attend the Induction Service of Debbie and Clive Scheeper to the parish of St Michael's and All Angels in Prince George, on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm.

It was with regret that I accepted the resignation of Danny Whitehead from the Lytton & Scw'exmx Parishes effective September 1, 2017. Danny has been appointed as Rector of the Parish Church in Florence, Alabama. We will miss Danny and the wonderful contribution he has made to our Territory.

Barb Farrell tendered her resignation effective July 20, 2017 and we wish her well in the future. We are blessed to have Dale Drozda helping us in the office along with her work as Archive Clerk this summer. A job description has been prepared and the position has been posted. We are hopeful to have someone overseeing the office soon.

## **Prayer Requests:**

We pray for all who have been effected by the wildfires this summer. Please prayer especially for all who have been evacuated, those who lost homes, property and livelihoods, for those fighting the fires, and all civil official who are making decision for our communities.

Please pray for Debbie and Clive Scheeper as they move to Prince George and join the team of leaders at St Michael's and for the parish during this time of transition.

Please pray for the Lytton and Scw'exem Parishes as they prepare to say farewell to Danny and during this time of transition. And for Danny Whitehead as he moves home to be with family and to take up his new duties in Florence, Alabama.

Please prayer for a suitable person to be found to oversee the work of the Territory office.

Please give thanks to God for the wonderful support we are receiving from the wider church.

## **Bishop's Schedule and Important Fall dates and deadlines**

- July 30 Guest Presider Armstrong Anglican Church
- August 3 – 6 Regional Gathering in Whitehorse Yukon
- August 7 – 8 Days Off
- August 13 St David Celista
- August 18 Clergy Gathering to say farewell to Danny Whitehead
- August 20 St Alban's Ashcroft Parish Visit – Installation of Canon Molly Platz
- August 27 Induction service for Debbie Scheeper – St Michael's Prince George – 7 pm

## **September 1 – December 1 Bishop on Sabbatical Leave**

- September 14 – 17 Indigenous Consultation – Pinawa MB
- September 21 -23 BCY House of Bishops/Prov. Synod Executive Council – Sorrento Centre
- September 21 Administration Committee – Ken Gray Chair
- September 25 – 29 Council of the North Meeting – Toronto – Dwight Oatway attending
- October 14 LMWS training day - LTBA
- October 15 Deadline for APCI Parish Grant Applications
- October 23 – 27 Joint Clergy Conference with Diocese of Kootenay – Sorrento Centre
- October 23 – 27 National House of Bishops – Niagara Falls
- November 4 Administration Committee Meeting – face to face – Kamloops – Ken Gray Chair
- November 24 & 25 Coordinating Council Meeting – the Shrine – Ken Gray Chair

## **December 1 – Jan 9, 2018 Bishop on Annual Vacation**