

From the Bishop's Desk...

Hazy Days of Summer...

For many of us this summer, the air stayed hazy with smoke from surrounding wildfires. It's been a couple years since we had such a lengthy stint of smoke and poor air quality. For some, it was not just the smoke, they were displaced for many weeks not knowing what they would come back to. I could not help but think about those who had to work outdoors every day in the heat and smoke. Or those who had no where to go, living outdoors with no shelter or a place where they could find relief. We can only imagine what the long-term effects will be on our health as these kinds of occurrences keep happening.

Then, this past weekend while driving up to Quesnel, I travelled through over 40 kilometres of vast destruction in the forest, farms, ranches and homes. Sadly, many did lose their homes, farms and businesses in various parts of our Territory and in our neighbouring diocese of Kootenay. Our hearts do go out to those who were impacted this summer, and who continue to struggle.

It becomes harder to ignore the fact that creation is in distress and that the impact is real. It is why it is imperative that we pay attention and listen to what creation is telling us. The signs are there. The question is: how will we respond both individually and collectively?

One small way is to engage in the Season of the Creator which began September 1st and will run until St. Francis Day on October 4th. It is a liturgical season that has been informally marked for several years, and at the 2025 General Synod was recognized as an important season in the church calendar year. We now have liturgical resources for trial use that can be used in worship during this season. The purpose of the Season of the Creator is to raise awareness, highlight environmental issues, to pray together, and to encourage stewardship of God's beloved creation. It is also a call to action, inviting us to consider our own ways of stewarding what has been entrusted to our care.

Hazy smoky summers are a sobering reminder of what is at stake.

"Creator, you have wonderfully fashioned the heavens and the earth and us in your own image. Teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your breath in all creatures that we may be of service in the healing of the earth, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, through whom you breathe all creation into being."
(Year A Collect of the Day – Season of the Creator)

In Christ's Service,

+Clara

Bishop's Schedule September/October

September

Sept 15th Coordinating Council Meeting – 7 pm (Zoom)
Sept 17 - 19th Provincial School for Congregational Development – Vancouver
Sept 20 - 21st St. John the Divine Quesnel – 100th Anniversary/Confirmation Service
Sept 23 - 25th Vancouver School of Theology Board Meeting and Chancellor's Dinner
Sept 27th St. Peter's Monte Creek – 100th Anniversary Service

October

Oct 4 – 9th National House of Bishop's – Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Niagara Falls
Oct 15th Administration Committee Meeting – 7 pm (Zoom)
Oct 17th Fraser Basin Properties Society AGM (Zoom)
Oct 19 – 22nd Joint Clergy Conference with Diocese of Kootenay – Sorrento Retreat Centre
Oct 29 – Nov 1st Council of the North meeting – Winnipeg Manitoba

Prayer Corner



- * We pray for our neighbours, families, and friends that they may experience the love of Christ in and through us.
- * We pray for our Pastoral Elders: Ursula Drynock, Amy Charlie, Pauline, and Ernie Michell.
- * We pray for the Council of the North dioceses and their bishops.
- * We pray for Educational Institutions, teachers, staff and students.
- * We pray for all who are confined by illness or isolation, praying they may find peace and strength in the love and care they receive from others. We pray for caregivers, for strength and encouragement.
- * We pray for places in need of peace, especially Israel, Palestine, Iran, Ukraine, Russia, South Sudan.
- * We pray for healing in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Venezuela, and Nepal.
- * We pray for those who suffer through environmental disasters such as earthquakes, fire, floods and cyclones, especially remembering all who were impacted by wildfires in BC this summer.
- * We pray for those who are nearing death or have died, and for those who mourn.

News Around the Territory

Chief Cexpe'nthlEm Park – Lytton Anglican Parishes

The vision of having a gathering place to honour Chief Cexpe'nthlEm (Spintlum) near the existing memorial Monument in the St. Barnabas Lytton parish cemetery has been a hope for more than 20 years. In 2024, a working group re-convened after the great Lytton fire of 2021 with renewed energy to move this project forward, after many delays. Funds were secured through Provincial grants and other sources. Representatives from Lytton First Nation, the Village of Lytton, the Anglican Lytton parishes (Territory) and the New Pathways to Gold Society began the work of creating a park that would be a place to remember the legacy of Chief Cexpe'nthlEm and to tell the story of the different groups of people in the Lytton area. It would also be an important green space at the heart of the village for ceremony, gatherings and celebrations.

Chief Cexpe'ntlEm was a Chief and an Anglican who was instrumental in navigating volatile conflicts between local Indigenous peoples and gold rush prospectors who were coming into the area trying to stake claims of land. Chief Cexpe'ntlEm successfully negotiated a peace deal that prevented violence and the threat of war.

As a part of this park development and the Territory's commitment to this community, it was agreed that the parish of St. Barnabas would undertake the consolidation of the several lots around the church, rectory and hall so that a portion of the lots could be transferred (returned) to Lytton First Nation so that the park land would remain in perpetuity as a sign of our relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. This work has taken over 2 years, and with the support of the Administration Committee and Fraser Basin Properties Society, we are close to being able to formally return and legally transfer the portion of the parish land dedicated to the park. It is an accomplishment worth celebrating! On September 4th, the community gathered to celebrate the completion of phase one of the park project and to acknowledge the ceremonial transfer of the land to Lytton First Nation. Bishop Clara was in attendance and received a beautiful Friendship Stick as a sign of our ongoing relationship.



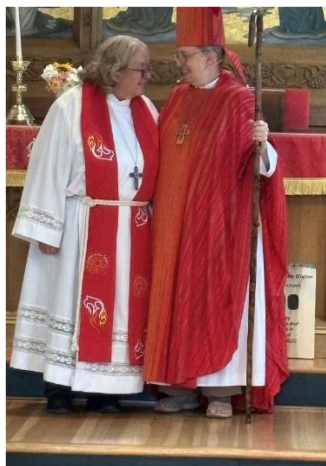
Provincial School for Congregational Development

The next year of training began in the Provincial School for Congregational Development. A new team from St. Paul Cathedral travelled to Vancouver and the Diocese of New Westminster who hosted the September weekend training. Dean Kyle Norman, Joan Lukow and Idowu Aina began their two-year training, and came back from event inspired and energized. Their next in-person session will be in Kelowna in the spring.



St. John the Divine Celebrates 100 years!

St. John the Divine Quesnel celebrated their 100th Anniversary the weekend of Sept 19-20th! Celebrations began on Saturday with Old Time Fiddlers, Storytelling, an open house in the Church and lunch! A special display was set up at the Quesnel Museum and will be there until November 10th. Bishop Clara joined the parish for the Sunday service where the 100th Anniversary was honoured and two members of the parish were confirmed while two others reaffirmed their baptismal vows. The festivities concluded with a hot lunch in the Hall.



Clergy Update – The Territory Office learned that the Ven. David Ellis died July 31st in Banff Alberta. He had served as Incumbent for 12 years at St. Michael and All Angels in Prince George. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



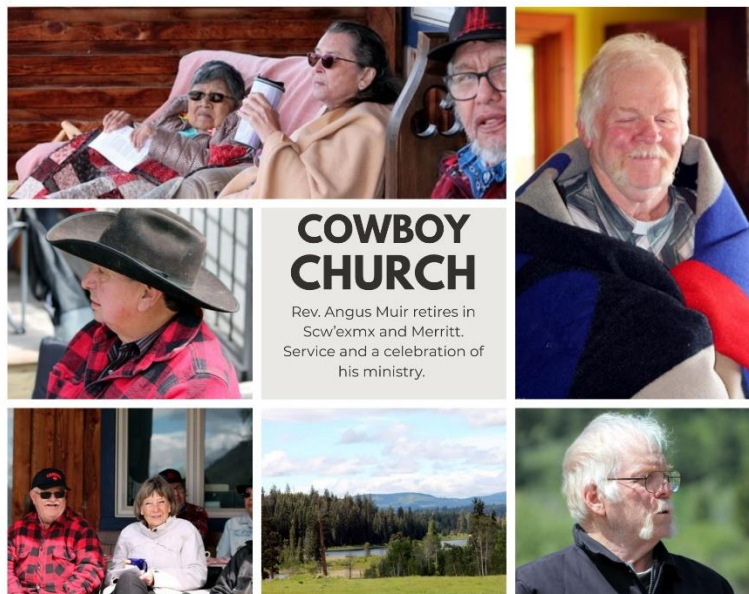
Ven. David Ellis

Other News

Strawberry Tea at the Cathedral



Rev. Angus Muir retires from the Scw'exmx and Merritt Parishes



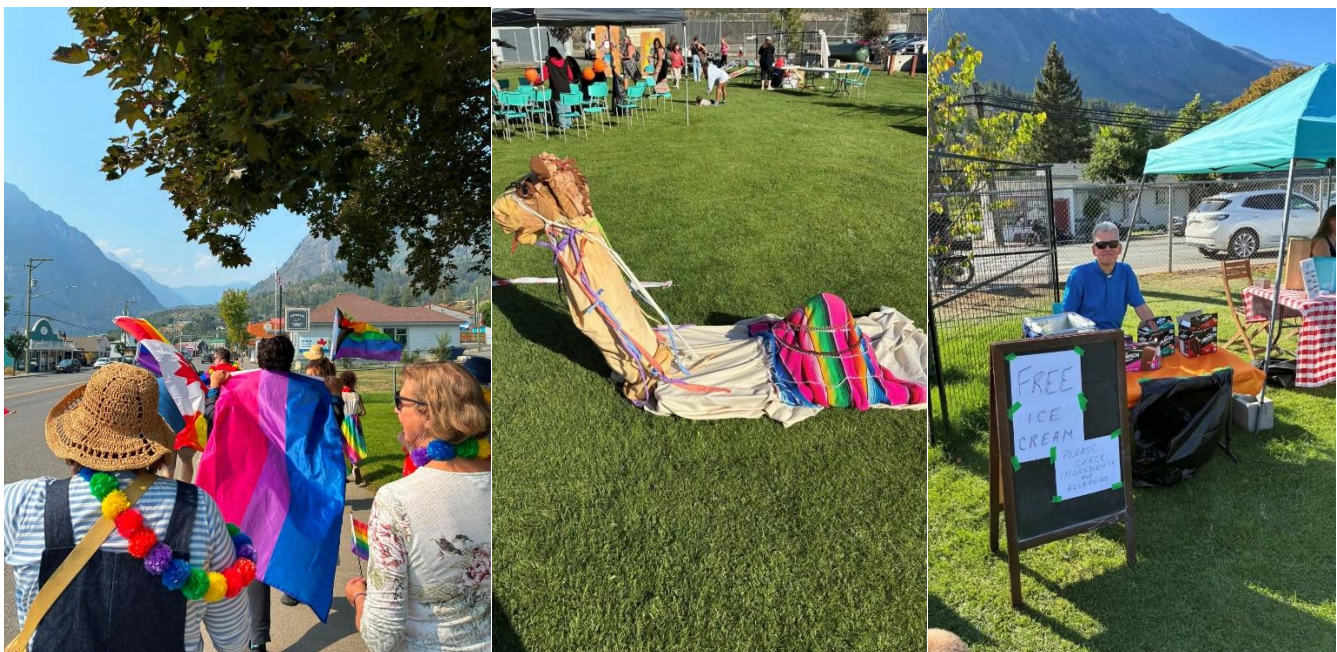
Rev. Linda LaGroix retires from the St. Alban's and St. Hilda's Parishes



Youth Equine Program in Shulus – Happy Horses on the church lawn



Lillooet celebrates Pride and the Camel races (separately)



For more news check our website out at <https://www.territoryofthepople.ca/>