

A ministry of the whole church by the whole church



Lent 5: Arctic School Reopens

In today's reading from Isaiah, we hear: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Across the Council of the North, God is raising up and strengthening new ministries to meet the changing needs of northern communities.

In the Diocese of the Arctic, the Arthur Turner Training School (ATTS) will soon reopen. The school originally opened in the early 1970s in the mountains of Pangnirtung, on the east coast of Baffin Island. For nearly 40 years, ATTS trained local people for ministry. But in 2007 it became clear that the buildings were in significant disrepair, and would be cost prohibitive to repair.

In the meantime, modular courses were held in Baker Lake and other locations. But now, says the Rev. Joey Royal, ATTS's new Director, "there's more urgency to get ATTS back running at its full capacity. We have a lot of open parishes—probably around 30 parishes that want clergy, we just don't have clergy to send them."

The driving goal is to "train local leaders that know the culture, know the language—that's their world and they're able to minister really effectively to their own people."

And Arctic Anglicans are excited to see ATTS reborn, this time in Iqaluit, NU. "ATTS has a name in the Arctic," says Royal. "People know the school; they know the quality of clergy they put out...So there's excitement, there are people who want to be ordained, who want to serve God in that way and are ready to come. I think there is some sense that this might be a turning point."

Prayer: *"Dear Lord, we pray for northern training schools as they prepare leaders to teach the Gospel in their own languages and cultures. Bless them with wisdom, insight and resources to do your work. Amen."*



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