

Companions on the Journey
Trip to Labrador
September 23 – October 4,
2011

Our trip began on the morning of Friday, September 23, 2011. Rev. Robin Trevors, Bill Haynes, Madonna Lawrence and Barb Porter were loaded



into the van; excited and ready to travel to a new place, meet new people and carry out the work we felt God was calling us to do. At 9:00AM we hit the TCH and there our trip began, with prayers. Pop up prayers guided us from then on. The drive from Conception Bay South to St. Barbe was joyful and exciting. We stayed in St. Barbe overnight and got the early boat at 8:00AM to Blanc Sablon. A beautiful crossing... When we arrived to "The Big Land", everyone was in awe.

Our first stop on Saturday was at **Mary's Harbour** to visit with Rev. Irene and her husband Wayne. It was then on to **Port Hope Simpson**. The church, parish hall and



apartment were formerly a school. When we arrived at the apartment, all beds were prepared, food in the fridge, drinking water, towels etc, everything we needed had been provided. Gail, her husband Darnell and daughter Gina came by to visit. On Sunday morning we held a Holy Eucharist Service. There were 21 people present. They don't usually have music, so the guitar music was well received as blended voices

were lifted to the Lord in praise. The people were wonderful, so happy and thankful that we were there. On Sunday afternoon we had a Messy Church for the children with story time, activities, singing and snacks. There were 13 children and several parents, what a beautiful afternoon – lots of excitement.

Rev. Irene and Wayne joined us. At 5:30PM we headed off to **St. Lewis** for a Prayer and Praise Service. Approximately 40-45 people attended. Wow, what a service!!! The participation during the two hours was overwhelming and the people were not ready for it to end. The presence of the Holy Spirit was very evident. The ladies served a delicious lunch to end the evening. We arrived back in Port Hope around 10:30PM.



Before leaving for Cartwright on Monday, Rev. Robin did some home visits and communions. Our journey has been awesome. More than ever, we felt God was truly calling us to this land. A visit to the Moulder of Dreams for shopping was a must just before leaving Port Hope.

We arrived in **Cartwright** about 8:00PM to a warm welcome... a note from Shirley, a pot of soup, homemade pie, fresh bread and a bucket of cold, clear spring water...we



knew that we were among friends, companions on a journey – a journey of faith. Shirley, the clergy warden, dropped by and was so excited, as were the others. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening we held the power of Blessing and Prayer and Praise services. Each was well attended and received. God's people were worshipping together and God's presence was all

around, peace and joy filled all our hearts. The music, singing and preaching rang out loud and clear. We got to know many wonderful people. In spite of all our plans, before leaving home, we kept adjusting what we thought they needed to what they really wanted. They were so happy that someone cared enough to come among them and share music, words, faith and love. Each person we met was so strong in their faith and commitment to their work in their church. They just needed to be refuelled and recharged. On Wednesday and Friday afternoon we did approximately eleven home visits and several communions. They were all very gracious and touched by the visit. On Wednesday we were invited to visit the children at the school; the school did everything they could for us. On Thursday afternoon we went to **Paradise River** for a home visit and communion. We were so blessed by each person we met right there in their home.

Friday evening was a planned youth gathering, however, only one young man showed up, so we all decorated and prepared for Vacation Bible School on Saturday. On Saturday morning, 22 children and some parents came along for the day. We did a session on Creation and one on the story of Jonah, complete with a big fish that all the children could get inside. They did activities, games and crafts. A delicious lunch was served by the ladies. What a wonderful day. As they were leaving, each child was given an invitation (prepared for us by the school) for them and their family to join us for an 11:00AM service on Sunday morning. Ten children and their families came along, three children read the prayers and they all sang their VBS songs for the congregation. God was very much present. The children were so joyful, wearing the panda bear hats they made at VBS. There were blessings in abundance all around.

Sunday afternoon the parish held a delicious potluck supper in our honour, and gifts of appreciation were given to each of us. Shirley and Job each gave us some red berries they had picked. Sunday evening was our closing Prayer & Praise service and what an awesome ending to a powerful, spirit filled week. After two hours they still did not want it to be over and one elderly lady said “I was just getting started”, Wow!

If the people we visited were half as blessed and fulfilled as we were, and I feel they were, it was a very successful, worthwhile journey of faith. Labrador is truly a big, beautiful rugged land filled with warm, gentle people.

We give God thanks for the opportunity to serve him in this way, as well as the people of All Saints Parish for their support and Prayers.

Would I do it again? Yes, in a heartbeat!!



Rev Robin Trevors - Barb Porter - Bill Haynes - Madonna Lawrence