



# Presbytery of Yukon

616 W. 10th Avenue • Anchorage, AK 99501

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January 14, 2014

## As The Body of Christ We Pray Together

If you are coming to Anchorage for hospital treatment and would like a pastoral visit, please contact the Presbytery office.

- Mary Jane Landstrom
- Susan Woods
- Richard Mauer's daughter-in-law, Sheryl Elliot, and their family
- The Kaneshiro family in the passing of Vera on Nov. 19th

And our military chaplains:

- Rev. Ted McGovern
- Rev. Patrick Bracken
- Rev. Kevin Wainwright
- Rev. John Kaiser

## CHECK IT OUT!



The NEW Presbytery  
of Yukon website  
is now online at  
[www.pbyukon.org](http://www.pbyukon.org)!



## Congratulations to Jason and Ellen Johnson-Price!

Welcome to the world  
Rhys Matthew Johnson-Price!  
Born on January 7th at 9:41am,  
weighing 6lbs. 11 ounces and  
19.5 inches long.

The following article can be found on [The Alaska Dispatch website](http://The Alaska Dispatch website).

## Let's pass toxic chemical reforms -- but let's do it right

My Yupik name is Akaay. My English name is Tiffany Immingan. I am a Siberian Yupik youth from St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, located in the northern Bering Sea. I was raised in the community of Savoonga. My people are hunters, whalers, food gatherers, singers and dancers. I am grateful for having a wonderful family who taught me our cultural and traditional values of living in a community and in harmony with our lands and waters.

Having toxin-free food, air and water is an essential part of our traditional values. We cannot be healthy if our environment is not healthy. Unfortunately, we are being exposed to toxic chemicals in our environment, our homes and our workplaces every day. Chemicals produced far away are transported into the Arctic by air and ocean currents and accumulate into the traditional foods that we have relied on for generations for our well-being. This means we are even more exposed and harmed by toxic chemicals. On St. Lawrence Island we are also exposed to toxic chemicals from two abandoned military sites. As if this were not enough, we even get more exposure from some of the products we buy at the store. Even children's furniture contains known cancer-causing chemicals such as flame retardants.

As a result of these daily exposures to toxic chemicals, those of us who live in remote places like Alaska and the Arctic have some of the highest levels of toxic chemicals in our own bodies. On St. Lawrence Island we have very high levels of PCBs in our traditional foods and in our bodies, up to 10 times higher than average U.S. levels. Yupik women within the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta area of Alaska have the highest levels of PBDEs -- toxic, flame-retardant chemicals -- in their blood. These chemicals have been linked to serious diseases such as cancer, diabetes, learning disabilities, birth defects and reproductive harm. People in my community are being harmed by all these diseases. Last year, we lost 19 people from cancer in a community of about 1,200. How can we expect to be healthy if we have these toxins in our own bodies? If we want to prevent illnesses such as cancer we must do whatever we can to reduce unnecessary exposure to toxic chemicals. This includes changing the current chemical policy system that is harming communities like mine.

Our toxic chemicals laws are badly broken. Chemical companies are not required to show that the chemicals they use to make the products we buy are safe for human health and the environment. The burden of proof is upon us to show that the chemicals are causing the harm. This is unacceptable. Communities like mine are working on reform for safer chemical laws that protect our human health. The federal law on toxic chemicals, the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, has never been updated. Last year, senators in Congress introduced a toxic chemicals bill called the Chemical Safety Improvement Act (S.1009). Sens. Mark Begich and Lisa Murkowski are

**Note to Churches:  
Our February Presbytery  
meeting is quickly  
approaching. Please  
remember to elect your Elder  
Commissioner as soon as  
possible. The sooner we  
know who is attending and  
can make travel arrangements  
to Anchorage, the better the  
airfare prices. Thank you!**

**THANK YOU**  
to Delta PC, Utqiagvik PC, and  
United Protestant for sending  
in your 2014 Mission Pledges!

co-sponsors of this bipartisan bill. Sadly, this bill is not good enough as it is and fails to adequately protect the health of communities like mine, which are also called hot spots -- communities that are disproportionately harmed by toxic chemicals.

I am grateful to live in a community that cares about this issue. In response to the CSIA, the Native villages of Gambell and Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island passed their own resolutions in support of strengthening the CSIA to protect vulnerable populations such as elders, children, pregnant women and hot spot communities from exposure to toxic chemicals. Both communities introduced an identical resolution during the 2013 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention. It was the first time I attended an AFN Convention and it was awesome to see that they passed the toxins resolutions submitted by the two communities of St. Lawrence Island (Resolution 13-23). What a great victory! I had the amazing opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., for a Stroller Brigade for Safer Chemicals to hand-deliver those resolutions -- and hundreds of petitions -- to our senators to ensure our voice is part of the decision that affects our health and well-being.

Everyone who truly cares about the health of Alaskans must voice their support for stronger toxic chemicals laws. Thirty-seven years of a broken chemical system is enough. We want chemical policy reform, but we want to ensure that it is done right.

*Tiffany Immingan is from Savoonga, where she is director of the food bank.*

"In the end, love  
doesn't just keep  
thinking about it  
or planning for it.

Simply put:  
Love does!"

Bob Goff

### PLUME Youth Mission Immersion

All youth grades 7-12 are invited to a Youth Mission Immersion on January 17-19, 2014 in Anchorage. Hosted by PLUME (Presbyterian, Lutheran, United Methodist & Episcopal) churches, youth will spend a weekend serving others in Anchorage. Visit [www.plumeyouthAK.com](http://www.plumeyouthAK.com) for info, schedule, to register and pay online. Cost is \$35 which includes lodging, food and a T-shirt!

For further information about the event, please contact Danna Larson at [dannalarson@firstpresanchorage.org](mailto:dannalarson@firstpresanchorage.org).

**2014**

**HOT FRESH LUNCH FOR FREE**

**MAT-SU VALLEY HOMELESS CONNECT**

**ONE DAY. ONE STOP. ONE COMMUNITY.**



**JANUARY**

**29** LOCATED AT  
**THE MENARD SPORTS COMPLEX**  
 1001 S. Mack Dr. Wasilla, Alaska  
**10:00 am-3:00 pm**

This is a one-day, one-stop event to provide people experiencing homelessness with access to a broad range of services, including health and wellness screenings, legal services, employment assistance, food, toiletries and more. The event also helps participants contact family members, obtain identification and fill out applications for housing opportunities.

**FREE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED TO THE EVENT**  
**TRANSPORTATION CONTACT NUMBER**  
**ON DAY OF THE EVENT**  
**(907) 745-5827**





### [National Presbyterian Cookbook](#)

The First United Presbyterian Church of Clinton, Iowa is working on a National Presbyterian Cookbook. They are looking to incorporate recipes from churches around the country as a way to celebrate denominational heritage and raise additional funds for ministry. The first volume, [Made with Love and God's Blessings](#), will be published before May 11, 2014 (just in time for Mothers' Day). This first volume would focus on main dishes, while future volumes will center on sides and salads, soups and sauces, and desserts and snacks. Information on these other publications will be available at a later date. For now, they need your main dish recipes.

If you would like to have your church highlighted, submit your main dish recipes through mail or e-mail **before March 1, 2014** to:

First United Presbyterian Church  
400 Fifth Ave. South  
Clinton IA, 52732  
Email: [first.united.pres@gmail.com](mailto:first.united.pres@gmail.com)

Please include: at least one recipe, the name of your church/organization, and a brief description--no more than one page--of what you would like others to know about your church/organization (such as its history, its significant ministry, the community it serves, and so forth) and a photo (optional).

The anticipated price of each cookbook is still up in the air, but they will notify contributing churches first, granting them an extra discount per order. If you have any questions about this project, please email the church at the above address or call 563-243-1142.

## Mark Your Calendars...

### January 17th - 19th:

PLUME Youth Mission Immersion

Anchorage

For more information, please visit: [www.plumeyouthAK.com](http://www.plumeyouthAK.com)

### January 29th:

2014 Mat-su Valley Homeless Connect

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Menard Sports Complex in Wasilla

### February 28th - March 1st, 2014:

Next Presbytery Meeting - First Presbyterian Church of Wasilla

### March 21st-24th, 2014:

Ecumenical Advocacy Days

Washington D.C.

Click [here](#) to visit the website for more information.

### Quick Links

[Presbytery of Yukon](#) | [Synod of Alaska- Northwest](#) | [PC\(USA\)](#)  
[Presbyterians for Earth Care](#) | [Presbyterian Foundation](#)



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