



Presbytery of Yukon

May 5, 2017

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Rev. Henry Woodall
and family in the
passing of Henry's
father

The Cabinboy family

Maggie Irrigoo

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www.PBYukon.org

From our Executive Presbyter

Mission

In the last edition of our e-News I described the per capita portion of the money your church pays to the Presbytery. Per capita pays the administrative portion (office, meetings, etc.) of our ministry together. This week, I want to talk about the mission portion of your congregation's giving to presbytery.

Indeed, knowing that the administrative portion of our budgets are covered, churches and members can give to Presbytery mission with confidence that 100% of money raised for a mission cause goes to that mission! The people you have sent to presbytery meetings have worked hard so that all our congregations can unite in support of a number of causes that are close to our hearts. Some of our mission causes include the following:

- **Heating Oil for small churches in our presbytery**
Heating oil is barged or flown into many of our outlying communities. For instance, households on St. Lawrence Island typically earn only about half as much as the average family in Anchorage or Barrow. Yet, heating oil costs \$5.25 per gallon on the island, but only \$2.82 per gallon in Anchorage.
- **Building Maintenance and Insurance**
Many of our smallest congregations are either the only church in their community, or one of only two. They are important outposts for Jesus Christ's ministry in their communities. Yet, they often lack the funding to keep up their facilities. Our mission funds provide great help.
- **Leader Training**
Our presbytery provides training for session, deacons, and Sunday school leaders, especially for congregations that lack the resources to provide their own training. Similarly, presbytery is active in training, commissioning and mentoring Commissioned Ruling Elders (lay pastors), who provide vital leadership for so many of our churches.
- **United Efforts**
Important Ministries that become possible through our covenantal common efforts: Bingle Memorial Camp in Fairbanks, Kairos prison ministry in the Mat-Su Valley, and PLUME (Presbyterian, Lutheran, United Methodist, Episcopalian) united ministries.
- **Ministries of Healing and Reconciliation**
This year in Utqiagvik, and five years ago in Gambell, our presbytery participated with our communities in naming mistakes of the past based on serious misconceptions and pledged to learn from those mistakes to

make a positive difference into the future. The ministry in Gambell moves forward with joint projects between the church, the presbytery and the local community through the new building. Similarly, in the arctic we are now engaged in designing strategies for participating in and encouraging God's healing of the people and the communities in the arctic. This received a fair amount of press. But what is more important are the new partnerships that are forming with people in these communities-made possible because of the mission dollars that helped fund these events.

- **Ministries of Encouragement and Support**

- Last year we began an effort to visit every congregation across the presbytery in order to share ideas, hear concerns, and build relationships. That ministry will continue in 2017.
- On St. Lawrence Island, Rev. Leisa Carrick provides in-person visits quarterly, and is always on call to encourage local leaders and members.
- Presbytery leadership helped recruit Rev. Hugh Anderson, who travels six times per year to offer training for elders, deacons, lay pastors and Sunday School teacher. He is working with the Olgonik, Atqasuk and Kuukpik Presbyterian Churches.
- In 2017 Rev. Curt Karns and CRE Darlene Matz each plan to visit Kaktovik at least four times. Darlene will provide encouragement and training for Christian Education, and Curt will provide Bible Study and leader training.

These ministries and more are only possible through your donations to the mission budget of the presbytery. Note that these efforts are most effective when done face-to-face, and air fare is high these days. For example, a round-trip ticket from Anchorage to Kaktovik costs \$744 (today). Doing ministry, and doing it well, requires financial support.

Yet, your church does not receive a bill for the mission portion of our budget. We depend on your free-will offerings. If all of this ministry were to be paid for by your donations it would cost \$160.53 per member. For a church of 100 people, the mission portion would be \$16,053. Although the presbytery is seeking grants and other funding to try to bring this cost down, a goodly part of our support must come from congregations if we are to balance our budget.

Having said that, we know that these are difficult financial times in Alaska and in Alaskan churches. How, then, can we make sense of meeting such ministry needs?

We recommend that each church set a minimum standard for itself of giving at least 10% (the biblical tith) to mission beyond your congregation, and that a significant part of that tith go to presbytery. We also recommend that you consider the Fair Share amount as a possibility as you plan the financial part of your ministry this year.

Indeed, many of us are celebrating the creative ways some of you are raising money to stay engaged in important mission. Kaktovik (and other villages) are famous for cake walks. North Pole is famous for auctions. Anaktuvuk Pass is famous for providing collection points in the local stores for people to give. Each place is looking for ways to support mission that fit their own location.

Our goal needs to be to ask what ministry it is that we believe God wishes us to do just now, and to be energetic in seeking ways to go after that ministry. I believe the churches of our presbytery are asking this question in one form or another. May God bless you and inspire you in this important work.

*** Host Church Needed ***

We are seeking a host church for our next presbytery meeting which will be held on October 6th & 7th, 2017. If your church is willing to host the presbytery meeting, please contact the office at office@pbyukon.org or our Stated Clerk, Sharon Rayt at sharon@pbyukon.org. Thank you!

Spring Gathering This Weekend



Yukon Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering

WHERE: United Protestant Church in Palmer

WHEN:

Friday May 5 from 6-8pm and
Saturday May 6 from 10am-3pm

All Women Are Invited/Encouraged to Attend

Utqiagvik Healing Event Update

The Renewal & Healing Event in Utqiagvik this February was an important event for the entire presbytery.

For more information and to view documents from the event, please check out our Renewal & Healing Event website at:



http://www.pbyukon.org/healing_event.html

Gambell New Church Build Mission Teams

***It's time to get our Gambell New Church
Build Mission Teams organized!***

Thanks to many of you who are interested in going to Gambell in July or August to help with the construction of the new church building. To date we have three teams committed and we are in need of five more teams to complete our summer schedule. If your church is sending a team, please let Danna Larson (dllsitka@gmail.com) know when your team can go by **May 15th**. If you want to go and your church is not sending a team, you are welcome to be part of a Presbytery wide team. Let Danna or the presbytery

office know of your interest.

You can visit the Presbytery of Yukon [website](#) to find out all of the information you need to start planning for your trip. As soon as you select your dates, Danna Larson will contact you and help you with your trip planning. Thanks for your commitment in helping the Gambell Church with the building of their new church building. Remember, if we want to have our Presbytery meeting in Gambell in 2018 we need to do some sweat hours this summer!

Presbytery in the News: "Go and Do Likewise"

Last summer 15 youth and 3 adults represented the Yukon Presbytery at the PC(USA) Youth Triennium at Purdue University. The theme of the Triennium was "GO" and all who attended were encouraged to focus on "what will we do when we get back home" based on the experiences each had at the Triennium.

Danna Larson, one of the youth advisors shares this story:

As we met in our triennium presbytery group I encouraged the youth to name one or two things that they could "Go and Do Likewise" when they returned home. The youth shared openly. Agra (Chris) Appassingok from Gambell said, "I have to go back and hunt." I looked at him and said, "What do you mean?" He said, "I need to hunt. My people are hungry. We need food."

Last week Agra caught a whale for his village. Following are the radio and newspaper articles:

<http://www.ktoo.org/2017/04/21/gambell-teenager-leads-successful-whale-hunt-brings-home-57-foot-bowhead/>

<http://www.alaskapublic.org/2017/04/20/gambell-sees-second-whaling-of-the-year/>

<https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/rural-alaska/2017/04/24/a-teenager-on-a-gambell-whaling-crew-scored-the-villages-second-successful-strike-of-the-season/>

A Time for Celebration!

Rev. Alice Green will be celebrating her 100th birthday on July 21st and you are all invited to join us as we celebrate this momentous occasion.

The festivities will be held on Friday, 7/21, at 11:30am at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Anchorage. It will be a potluck luncheon. For questions on what to bring or other questions about the event, please contact Vi Markson at 345-1334 or vamarkson@gmail.com.

If you will be attending, please RSVP no later than Monday, July 17th to the Trinity church office at trinity@trinityalaska.org or by calling 345-4823.



Presbytery Disaster Assistance Update

Presbytery members Dan Ketchum and Leah Hathaway are members of the Alaska Volunteers Active in Disasters. Dan Ketchum recently attended the Presbytery Disaster Assistance (PDA) annual meeting in Atlanta and made the following report:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) annual meeting was held in Atlanta, April 21-24. Members of the volunteer National Response Team (NRT) and National Volunteer Team gathered to expand the team's knowledge of disaster ministries and response.

PDA members received training throughout the year in areas such as natural and human-caused disasters, emotional and spiritual care, church damage, post-disaster volunteer work force housing, long-term community rebuilding, and refugee and immigration in disaster response.

In addition, in Atlanta, volunteers participated in sessions dealing with racism and privilege, and suicide awareness. Guest speakers from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), a consortium of groups that respond during disasters were featured.

PDA is made up of 102 clergy and lay members representing 34 states and Puerto Rico. NRT members commit to 1 month of service annually. In 2016, national volunteers spent approximately 2,377 days in 62 presbyteries in response to church damage, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, storms, human-caused disasters, and in refugee ministry.

PDA enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to witness the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events. The organization gratefully received support through your One Great Hour of Sharing donations.

From Rev. Ryan and Alethia White

Dear friends,

Please find our latest letter update posted here on our website:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/letter/building-bridges/>

We will be in the U.S. this summer from June-August to visit with churches

and others interested in the work here in Berlin. Please find some info regarding this in our letter and we look forward to seeing some of you in person and perhaps others of you by Skype as we will be located on the East Coast this time.

Peace to you,
Rev. Ryan and Alethia White
Presbyterian Church (USA) Mission Co-workers

Mark Your Calendars

May 5-6, 2017

Yukon Presbyterian Women Gathering

United Protestant Church, Palmer

July 6-8, 2017

**Big Tent 2017: Race, Reconciliation,
and the Reformation**

Washington University - St. Louis, Missouri

For more information, please visit www.pcusa.org/bigtent

July 21, 2017

Happy 100th Birthday, Rev. Alice Green

Trinity Presbyterian Church at 11:30am

**September 25-
27, 2017**

Stewardship Kaleidoscope

St. Pete Beach, Florida

Trade Winds Island Grand Resort

To register and for more information, please visit:

www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org

**October 6-7,
2017**

Our Next Presbytery Meeting

Location TBD

Presbytery of Yukon - 616 W. 10th Avenue, Anchorage AK 99577 - 907-276-0914

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