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Presbytery of Yukon

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Newsletter Issue 43

May 17, 2013

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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.

- Thomas Hopson & Dorothy Gordon in the death of their 4 month old baby
- Kim MacInnes-Green
- Vera Kaneshiro
- Angela Larson
- Jimmy Nayakik

And our military chaplains:

Dear Melissa,

A Message from Curt Karns: Becoming the Presbytery Owl

Lately, I have been putting effort into writing vision and job descriptions for the Presbytery Owl... which, it turns out, is one of the roles I have been asked to play for the presbytery.

Writing vision descriptions is necessary, because the presbytery voted in October to reduce my work to 10 months per year. It has become necessary to define which roles the executive presbyter will play in presbytery leadership, and which he (I) will not. Since the first of those blocks of time away from the office is this month, it is high time to decide on what ministry roles the executive presbyter shall fulfill. That is the role of the vision description. A job description describes the duties included in fulfilling that vision.



According to the Presbytery Leadership Team, the executive presbyter is called to play two roles within the life of the presbytery.

First, the executive presbyter is to serve as pastor to the presbytery. This means that the executive presbytery is to serve

- as pastor-to pastors,
- as first responder, along with the stated clerk, to crises and problems as they arise in the presbytery.
- as the "face" of the presbytery, showing up in each region and helping interpret the mission of the presbytery,
- spending two weeks out of eight on-site in the villages pursuing

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

Sexual Ethics Training

The Alaska United Methodist Conference is hosting a Sexual Ethics Training class and it is open to all.

When:

Thursday, May 30th
1:30 - 5:30 pm

Where:

St John United Methodist Church

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to our office no later than May 28th. (276-0914)

Midsummer's Light Bible Institute

Alaska Pacific University
June 18-21, 2013

For more information and/or to register for the event, please contact APU at 907-564-8291 or boiscl@alaskapacific.edu.

specific goals.

- and as holder of the presbytery vision when staffing committees.

It is when we talk about the second role the executive presbyter plays that we find ourselves describing the Owl to the Presbytery. The executive presbyter is not caught up in one congregation or community, or even just in our presbytery. The executive is to rise up and look at the big picture, as if from an altitude, and asked to challenge the presbytery to not lose its own perspective on what God is doing.

Some scholars [like Ron Heifetz] call this "leading from balcony space." However, the Joint Parish members commented in February that "balcony space" was truly not descriptive in a land with almost no balconies; they wanted a better definition for this role than that. As that conversation progressed, one person finally spoke up and said this is more like the owl. It hovers over the tundra with sharp eyes and sees with wisdom.

Since then, different groups have thought about the executive presbytery filling the role of Owl to the Presbytery and have shared some creative thought on how this image helps the presbytery. I want to share some of that creative thinking.

Before I do, though, let me share one personal thought:

I have never really liked the title executive presbyter. I always have to explain what it means, and the explanation is not very exciting. However, given the two roles the Leadership Team has asked me to play, I have been toying with the title Pastor and Owl to the Presbytery.

Now that is a fun title! Anyone want to add it to our personnel list?

[You can view Curt's complete blog at <http://pbyukon.blogspot.com/>]

Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering ---Living with Hope---

At Immanuel Presbyterian Church
2311 Pembroke Cir, Anchorage

Friday May 17 (6-9 pm) and Saturday May 18 (9 am - 3 pm)

Topics include: Human Trafficking and Violence to Women with Waverli Rainey and Liz Potter doing presentations



Church of Anchorage Pastors & Leaders Prayer Gathering

You are invited to attend the Quarterly Pastors/Leaders Prayer Gathering on **Tuesday, May 28th** at **11:00 am**. This is a special time set aside for focused prayer for one another and for our city.



We are also privileged to have a representative from Willow Creek who will be joining us for the purpose of encouraging us as ministry leaders in our community.

This gathering provides a wonderful opportunity to connect, encourage and pray for each other. Please bring your key leaders with you as we gather at 11:00 am.

Lunch will be served during our time together and the suggested offering per person is \$10-15. Please, don't let finances keep you from attending. You can [RSVP on-line](#) by **Friday, May 24**.

If you have any questions, please contact the Church of Anchorage office at 907-258-1165.

How Rossman Peetook woke up early and composed a great piece of Gospel music by Bill Hess

Two years ago, Rossman Peetook woke up at 4:30 AM and wondered, "How can I praise my Lord today?" He began to sing and on the spot composed a lively hymn with a strong beat. "Jesus rose from the dead, He arose, He arose, Jesus rose from the dead..."

He told the story early this morning to small group of his fellow parishioners who had gathered at the Presbyterian church for breakfast and coffee following sunrise Easter services at the cemetery.

Sadly for me, I just missed the sunrise service because I woke up three minutes before it started and it probably took me 20 minutes total to pop out of bed, get dressed, don a heavy coat and walk full speed to the graveyard. Those who did make it on time described it as wonderful, but even wonderful Sunrise services held in subzero weather tend to be brief. By the time I arrived, the eight who had made it had moved into the Presbyterian Church for breakfast and coffee.

I joined them, in time to hear Rossman tell his story and to listen to him sing his song. At one point, he stopped singing and stomped his foot three times. That, he later explained, represented the earthquake that followed the crucifixion of Christ and the failure of death to hang onto Christ after the third day.

It is an excellent song - lively, full of spirit. Sooner or later, I expect the larger world of gospel singing to pick up on it and then maybe everybody will get to hear it. Rossman taught the song to all those gathered. Later, at 11:00, they sang it for the larger congregation gathered for the second of the three Presbyterian services held in Wainwright this day.

Even though I cannot sing, the eight insisted I come up, join them, so I did.



Rossman, a retired whaling captain, is also well-known for the Iñupiat drum dance songs he has composed and the traditional motion dances he has created.

[Article and photo courtesy of Bill Hess. Click [HERE](#) to view his blog site.]



2013 National Evangelism and Church Growth Conference

September 16-19, 2013

Tradewinds Island Grand Resort

www.ECG2013.org

The theme this year is "Let's Get it Started", which reflects much of what is happening in the church today. From the 1001 Worshiping Communities initiative to programs focusing on church renewal and disciple-making, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is embracing opportunities to define the church in new ways.

The conference theme was inspired by Isaiah 43:19: "Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it?"

Certificate in Lay Ministry

Whitworth University

Sept. 2013 - June 2014

Now offered **online** as well as **on campus**, the Certificate in Lay Ministry Program is designed to help train, equip, and support men and women to serve more effectively as commissioned lay pastors, Christian-education directors, lay-ministry coordinators, youth leaders, church administrators, church elders and deacons, church office managers, and in a variety of other paid and unpaid leadership positions in local congregations. Classes are held for 9 months, September - June. Scholarships are available!

[More...](#) about the online course.

[See here](#) for more information about the on campus course.

Certificate in Teaching the Bible (online)

Sept. 2013 - April 2014

Church leaders are expected to teach the Bible in various settings with a variety of different constituents. The Certificate in Teaching the Bible Program is designed to give Sunday school teachers, lay ministry leaders and pastors insight into using the Bible more effectively with children, youth and adults. Scholarships are available! [More...](#)

Western Christian Educators' Conference

"Transformed by Hope-Imagining Faith Formation in the 21st Century" is the theme of this year's conference to be held October 14-17, 2013 at Zephyr Point Conference Center on beautiful Lake Tahoe. [more information](#)

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