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Presbytery of Yukon

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Newsletter Issue 44

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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.

- Nancy McCarty
- Angela Larson
- Jimmy Nayakik

And our military chaplains:

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

Midsummer's Light Bible Institute

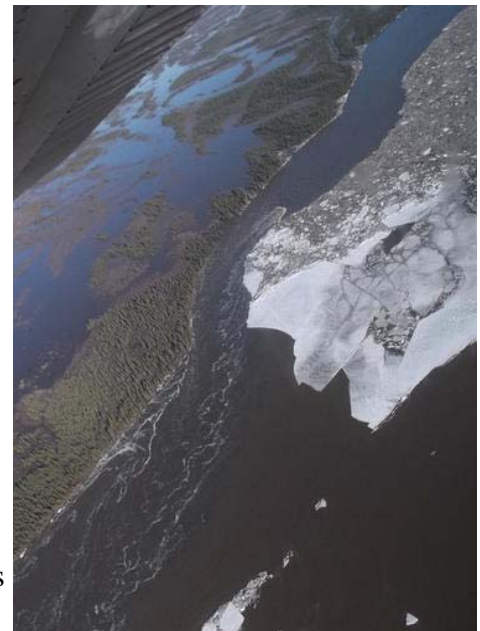
Alaska Pacific University

Dear Melissa,

The Yukon River is at it again!

Once more Alaska villages are inundated with ice chunks and flood waters. Many homes have been destroyed or damaged and people have been evacuated. UCPC has served as a Red Cross shelter for evacuees along with other faith-based and non-profit partners in Fairbanks. Donations are coming in by the droves, so much so that we ask that items not be donated because of limited storage and volunteers to handle such items. Rather, if you feel moved to assist, please send cash donations to the Long Term Recovery Committee that is housed at UCPC. The name of the committee is Northern Alaska Disaster Recovery (NADR) and they will use the money appropriately and as needed.

Additionally, as the water recedes and State of Alaska teams are able to assess the needs, there will be the need for volunteers to assist in the rebuilding of homes. The expectation is that the process will look much like the event in 2009. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance along with many other faith-



Ice Jam on the Yukon (Photo Courtesy Alaska National Weather Service, Alaska - May 22, 2013)

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.

based, non-profit, and non-governmental organizations will be spearheading the recovery efforts. Please prayerfully consider what the Presbytery of Yukon can do to be helpful. If you feel called to assist in the endeavor, please be a partner with those organizations that are already at work for they practice collaboration, coordination, communication and cooperation so that no one is re-inventing the wheel, nor are needs overlooked. Please contact NADR at UCPC, or you can email Sandy Faison at: sandy.faison@usa.net. Sandy is coordinating the PDA response. This will be a summer long process, so many hands will be needed!



IONA Community Celebration
June 9th at 11 am at the
United Protestant Church in Palmer

Everyone is welcome to join us in Palmer on June 9th during the regular worship service as we celebrate the addition of two new members, Ian & Kim MacInnis-Green, and as we renew our commitment to the Rule. With the two new additions we will officially be forming the Alaska Associate Family Group of the Iona Community.

The IONA Community is an ecumenical community of men and women - some of whom are not even Christian!- of clergy and lay people from around the world. There are 270 Full Members and about 1800 Associate Members. Full membership requires about two years of residence in Scotland participating in the activities of the Community. Since that is hard for us here in Alaska, we will have Associate Member status. Anyone may join who is willing to abide by the Rule and make a financial commitment to the Community. In the United States, we have an American "expression" called The New World Foundation based at Kirkridge Retreat Center, Bangor, PA. We operate a publication arm called Wild Goose Publications that includes a team of people committed to exploring new modes of worship and writing new music for worship. We have a very strong commitment to working with young people and we are committed to ending the proliferation of nuclear arms. To learn more about IONA go to their website at www.iona.org.uk.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Our prayers are with you...

"Our hearts are just broken for the parents. Our prayers are with you."

These words from Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin echo how many of us feel after a massive EF-5 tornado destroyed parts of Moore, Oklahoma, on Monday. Homes and businesses were stripped to their

foundations by the powerful winds and schools caved in on the young children who took shelter along their hallways. In just 30 minutes, 24 lives were lost, including nine children; more than 200 people were injured; and hundreds more were left homeless.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is there with spiritual support and caregivers who understand and are trained for the unique challenges of those going through disaster. PDA works directly with mid councils to ensure we're meeting the needs of the community. This is also the time when PDA's work begins coordinating volunteer teams. These teams are vital and make rebuilding possible for those most in need. It is in the weeks, months, and years that follow that PDA will remain-helping with the long-term recovery even when others have moved onto the next disaster or story.

It is something we've already seen this year—from the winter storm that pounded the northeast to tornadoes in Georgia, Tennessee, Texas, and Alabama. Presbyterians are still there, helping those in need. Now the heartland is hurting, but neighbors already are coming together, picking up the pieces, and moving forward. Will you stand in the GAP (Give/Act/Pray) to help communities recover from this devastating disaster?

What You Can Do

GIVE. Even after the clouds have lifted, long-term challenges will face millions in Oklahoma; we ask that you prayerfully consider giving online. You can give \$10 now by texting PDA to 20222 or you can **DONATE NOW** at their website.

ACT. Assemble Gift of the Heart kits. Get youth involved and experience this act of compassion for those in need through this tangible project. Contact the PDA Call Center at (866) 732-6121 to register your volunteer work team's interest to help with the repair and rebuilding and for details on how to volunteer your team's skills for efforts on the ground.

PRAY. Pray for individuals and communities affected by the storm. Consider using the prayer and worship resources available online. Pray that the hope of Christ will be evident in our response.

NACS ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Reverend Irvin Porter, Pastor of Church of the Indian Fellowship in Tacoma, Washington, has accepted the offer to serve the Presbyterian Mission Agency as the new Associate for Native American Congregational Support, effective June 3, 2013. Irv will work from his office in Puyallup, WA, as well as in the Presbyterian Mission Agency in Louisville, KY.

After an exhaustive and prayerful search, Irv was selected from a group of three outstanding final candidates. The two Native American leaders on the search team, Rev Buddy Monahan, Chaplain of Menaul School, and Commissioned Ruling Elder Debbie Battiste-Kleinman of the Indian Presbyterian Church (Alabama-Coushatta) in Livingston, Texas, valued Irv's passion for Native American congregational support work, and he soon emerged as the top



an agency of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 100 Witherspoon" Louisville, KY 40202

candidate for the position.

Irv will serve 30 hrs per week (3/4 time) as deployed staff. The remaining 10 hrs (1/4 time) he will continue to pastor at the Church of the Indian Fellowship in Tacoma, WA. He will collaborate with mid councils, general assembly offices; consult with Native American leadership, and other groups to initiate conversations and facilitate ministries that serve Native American worshiping communities. He will also work, in partnership with mid councils, to transform Native American congregations into vital and healthy churches. His focus areas will be leadership development, congregational transformation, and evangelism and church growth.

Irv is familiar to many of us, having served on the Native American Consulting Committee, including as its moderator from 2008-2013. He served on the finance committee of the Synod of Alaska-Northwest, the Advocacy Committee on Racial Ethnic Concerns (ACREC), as vice moderator of the Board of Trustees of Cook Native American Ministries, and as a member of the Presbyterian Multicultural Network board.

Irv received a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from the University of Dubuque and a Master of Divinity from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. Staff in the Racial Ethnic & Cross Cultural ministries offices serve under the supervision of Rev. Sterling Morse, Coordinator of Cross Cultural Ministries & Congregational Support.

We look forward to continued faithful and good mission and ministry in Native American Congregational Support in the Church of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Sterling Morse, Coordinator
CROSS CULTURAL MINISTRIES & CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT
RACIAL ETHNIC & WOMEN'S MINISTRIES/PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



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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