



# Presbytery of Yukon

616 W. 10th Avenue • Anchorage, AK 99501

907-276-0914  
[office@pbyukon.org](mailto:office@pbyukon.org)

September 12, 2013

## Table of Contents

- Prayer list
- Reminder!
- St. Lawrence Island
- Yukon River Flood Disaster
- Mosaic of Peace 2014
- Growing a Generous Congregation
- Mark Your Calendars

## As The Body of Christ We Pray Together

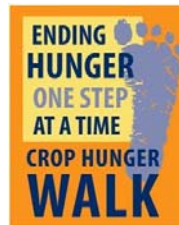
If you are coming to Anchorage for hospital treatment and would like a pastoral visit, please contact the Presbytery office.

- The family of Lloyd Nageak in his passing
- Kim MacInnes-Green
- Curtis McNeil
- Linda Agnasagga

### And our military chaplains:

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

**Hey Churches!**  
If you have not done so already, please make sure to get me the name of your Elder Commissioner as soon as possible. October and the Fall Presbytery Meeting is just around the corner! Thanks!



The Anchorage CROP Hunger Walk will be on September 22th. For more information, please contact the CWS Pacific Northwest office at

## Experiments in Ministry

I just want to share one very intriguing thought that I picked up at Big Tent, the amazing mission event held every second summer. One of the seminars I attended was talked about the power of New Ministries in the mission of the church. Here are three gold nuggets I took away from that seminar:

**ONE:** Most successful new ministries these days are not about planting a new church in a growing area and watching it grow. Rather they are about a handful of people moved by God to take on a particular ministry task for their community. The task might be to build Christian community in their neighborhood, or to address a particular need of compassion in their community-like homelessness or hunger, but it usually begins with two or three people who are passionate about this Christian ministry.

**TWO:** These ministries are often very different from the traditional "congregation-in-a-building" ministries of previous decades. Rather, they are experiments in new ways to do ministry. Vera White of the 1001 Worshiping Communities Office of the PCUSA has described these new ministries and the Research and Development arm of the church. Often these ministries do not start with ordained leadership, although sometimes their leaders begin studying for ordination, or recruit ordained leaders to join them later; often they do not include a building-they meet in homes, or request permission to meet in an existing church or other building; but they are passionate about their ministry being a true Christian ministry that builds up disciples of Jesus Christ for the purpose of engaging in this specific ministry. Many of these ministries only exist for a short time. Others are growing and maturing as Christian ministries. However, all are successful as Christian Research and Development, because the churches and presbyteries, and the Christian disciples they work with inevitably learn from their efforts. Success is about learning for future Christian witness.



An Ecumenical New Ministry Under Consideration for Alaska: God's Earth Ministry: Experiments in Sustain-able Living

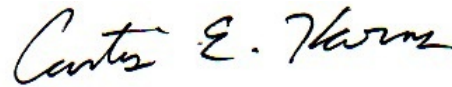
**THREE:** As these new ministries connect with presbyteries, they tend to inspire new efforts in the more established congregations. As church Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Anchorage is considering a what others are learning, they are inspired in their Community Garden Ministry for 2014 own efforts. The Presbytery of Pittsburgh reports that nothing has renewed their long-standing churches like the inspiration that came from the new ministries in their midst.



Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Anchorage is considering a Community Garden Ministry for 2014

With this in mind, I am wondering what new efforts God is inspiring in

Peace,



### **St. Lawrence Island**

The Governor has declared Savoonga and Gambell **Economic Disaster** areas due to their low walrus take this season, only 37% of normal. This has led to both a food and ivory shortage on the island, creating economic hardship for the citizens.

Last year, the SDOP committee and UAA teamed up to promote economic growth with the marketing of native art, primarily ivory carvings. However, without available ivory this will not be possible.

Please keep this situation and the economic health of St. Lawrence Island and the residents in your thoughts and prayers.

### **The Yukon River Flood Disaster**

The Yukon River flood of May 2013 resulted in significant damage in seven Alaska Native villages along the river, and has resulted in [State of Alaska](#) and [National Disaster Declarations](#). The Federal Emergency Disaster Agency (FEMA) is responsible for organizing and administering the federal funds, based on the extent of damage and legal limitations, available to homeowners and individuals. The Alaska Office of Emergency Management is the primary partner with FEMA. The State of Alaska Declaration made certain state disaster relief benefits available to homeowners with flood caused damages. A large number of "partners", non-profit organizations (e.g., American Red Cross), university research and extension groups (e.g., UAF Coop Extn.), faith-based organizations (most denominations), and service organizations, (e.g., Americorp and United Way), provide other beneficial responses of support and assistance not available from those primary governmental sources.



### **DISASTER RESPONSE**

Disaster response is delivered in two major contexts. 1) [First Response](#) efforts are just what the term implies - immediate response to rescue, provide medical care, emergency shelter, extinguish fires, establish order, provide emergency food supply, clear road ways, restore power, initiate emotional and spiritual care, etc.

2) [Long Term Recovery](#) involves restoring the community to its pre-disaster stability by repairs to infrastructures and restoration of services, providing long term temporary housing, providing assistance to individuals, who need more help than public funded assistance limits allow, to return to their own homes that are safe, sanitary and secure and to continue emotional and spiritual care, etc. This category of response continues long into the future, most often for years.

First responders are primarily public agencies designed to provide emergency response, but some volunteer disaster response groups are active in that effort. Long term recovery response provides a vital component of the process of returning the community to pre-disaster conditions

### **VOLUNTEERS ACTIVE in DISASTERS (VOAD)**

Many of the partners with federal and state emergency response organizations form a national organization, Volunteers Active in Disasters (NVOAD) with units in each state (AKVOAD in Alaska) which have the objectives of providing additional support with funds, in-kind donations and volunteer labor to meet needs not met with public assistance.

The PC(USA) is represented by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance via membership and active participation in NVOAD and in AKVOAD. It is through the state VOADs that faith based disaster response organizations participate officially and cooperatively in the long term recovery processes of the national disaster response plan. A local Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC) is organized to develop, administer, and assist FEMA and the State in the coordinate and completion of community long term recovery.

### **COMPLEXITY**

Disasters are terribly complex emergency events requiring considerable planning and preparation for first response and long term recovery response within the legal limitations in which public agencies must operate as they provide for community and individual financial and direct assistance.

VOAD responses are beyond, and in addition to, the national and state financial limitations. In the current Alaska disaster, volunteer teams from several denominations and non-profit groups have been providing muck-out (removal of contaminated and damaged home contents) and basic repair; assisting with assessment of home damage, assisting with a variety of tasks needed to provide needed information on

numbers of people affected and to what degree, organizing to receive donated items identified as emergency and unmet needs of those people affected, operating a warehouse to receive and disperse those needs, providing transitional housing for volunteer teams arriving to donate their labor and in this case, gathering to be transported to the remote villages involved, etc.

The latter is especially important in most of Alaska so that teams arrive in the villages fully staffed and ready to work on tasks needed at that time in the construction process. Assuring that arriving teams have work to do, materials needed, clean and safe places to eat, relax and sleep is a very important organizational task. Disaster response here in Alaska, is often quite different than in most of the lower 48 due to the remote locations of Villages, and lack of quickly available needed materials, food, temporary housing, etc. And always, the coming of winter provides a source of urgency.

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

Here's an abbreviated list of the villages with significant damages.

- **Circle:** 7 homes destroyed; Mennonite Disaster Services teams are rebuilding and repairing those homes;
- **Fort Yukon:** 3 homes needing repairs or replacement; United Methodist Volunteers in Mission are responding;
- **Galena:** 57 homes badly damaged or destroyed, village infrastructure destroyed and many families homeless, with total loss of possessions; various faith based teams are responding; a 40 person volunteer tent camp has been established to house teams until winter arrives.
- **Hughes:** several homes damaged;
- **Alakanuk:** some homes damaged;
- **Emmonak:** some homes and infrastructure damage.

Galena is the village most heavily damaged and with the greatest loss of all personal possessions by numerous families. Most families were displaced and are still in temporary housing away from the village. Their need is great.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance via UCPC in Fairbanks is assisting by providing temporary room and board as teams from outside mobilize there for FEMA charter flights out to Galena. Pastors of most denominations adhere to the NVOAD standards for emotional and spiritual care, which prohibits proselytizing and focuses on the immediate needs of the people under severe stress.

Yukon Presbytery congregations can participate in the response by donating money to Alaska VOAD for unmet needs and/or in-kind, unmet needs on the official "unmet needs" list. "Official" means no unsolicited in-kind donations, i.e. used clothing, which often overwhelm disaster locations and cause more problems than they solve. Please consult the needs list and the tips for donating, "How You Can Help with the Spring 2013 Flood Relief" at:

**[www.ready.alaska.gov](http://www.ready.alaska.gov)**

You will also find good disaster relief information there for your congregation, your neighborhood and your family. Please consider making an affordable cash donation to the [2013 Yukon River Flood Account](#).

Repair work for this fall will end for the winter about October 16th but will restart next spring with rebuilding (new homes) and ongoing repair. Needs will be assessed and identified afresh and highlighted at that time. Some donations will be needed for this winter. See the site above.

Rev. Sandy Faison and Rev. Dan Ketchum are members of the National Response Team of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and are members of AKVOAD. Others in Yukon Presbyterian churches with interest in Disaster Assistance/Preparedness are welcome to attend (in person or by phone) AKVOAD meetings in Anchorage and NARVOAD (Northern Alaska Regional VOAD) meetings in Fairbanks as unofficial participants.

Peace. Rev. Dan Ketchum  
907-373-5258  
deepwater@mtaonline.net

---



## MOSAIC OF PEACE

RESPONDING TO A CALL FOR PEACE AND WHOLENESS IN A LAND CALLED 'HOLY'

April 28-May 10, 2014



*A Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference in Israel/Palestine*



This is a kairos moment for the church, a time of urgency and opportunity to hear and heed the call for peace coming from the Holy Land. In faithful and hope-filled response, the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program's Mosaic of Peace conference invites Presbyterians to experience this remarkable and troubled region, encounter its diverse people, explore its rich history and complex current situation, and engage with those who seek its peace.

For more information and to apply online go to [pcusa.org/mosaicofpeace](http://pcusa.org/mosaicofpeace). The deadline for applications is **October 1, 2013**. Priority will be given to first-time visitors to the Holy Land. You must be 18 years or older to apply.

## GROWING A GENEROUS CONGREGATION

Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>  
7 pm - 9pm

&  
Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>  
7 pm - 9pm

Jewel Lake Parish  
3833 Strawberry Road  
Anchorage

Generosity is the outward expression of the grace-filled life and is a mark of the growing Christian. We live in a time in which people feel considerable anxiety concerning their money and the five ways to use it: spending it, saving it, giving it, paying debt with it, and paying taxes with it.

Money touches us at the point of our sense of security as few other matters do. It's personal. Sometimes we face serious financial obligations. We all have a variety of opportunities to give. When a person understands the biblical framework for the management of their finances and adjusts their life accordingly, there is freedom within one's heart to respond or not to respond to new giving opportunities as our Lord leads.

We are all aware that there are two related considerations in growing a generous people: the need of the giver to give as a personal expression of discipleship and the need of the congregation to receive in order to meet its financial obligations.

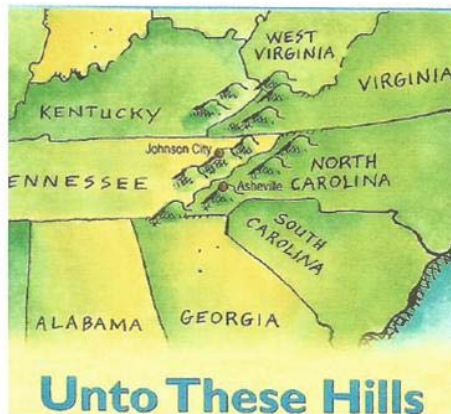
In this seminar we will explore:

- Five biblical guidelines for giving
- Steps to bring our giving house in order
- What motivates generosity
- Four kinds of stewardship campaigns
- The roles and responsibilities of the Generosity Ministry Team



For more information, please contact the office  
at 907-276-0914 or [office@pbyukon.org](mailto:office@pbyukon.org).

*YUKON PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN  
FALL GATHERING  
OCTOBER 19, 2013  
9:30am - 3:00pm*



*WASILLA FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1375 E. BOGARD ROAD  
WASILLA, ALASKA  
907-376-5053  
Psalm 121:1*

Please plan to join us for a great day of fellowship. Lunch will be served by the Wasilla 1st Presbyterian Women and Shirley Novak will be giving a presentation on the 2013 USAME Mission Experience to Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee. Invite a friend.

### Mark Your Calendars...

**September 16 - 19:**

2013 National Evangelism and Church Growth Conference  
Tradewinds Island Grand Resort  
[www.ECG2013.org](http://www.ECG2013.org)

**September 22:**

Anchorage's 2013 CROP Hunger Walk  
For more information, go to [www.CROPHungerwalk.org/anchorageak](http://www.CROPHungerwalk.org/anchorageak)

**October 10 & 11:**

Workshop: Growing a Generous Congregation  
7pm - 9pm both nights  
Jewel Lake Parish (in conjunction with Presbytery meeting)

**October 11 - 12:**

Presbytery Meeting  
Jewel Lake Parish, Anchorage

**October 14 - 17:**

Western Christian Educators' Conference  
Zephyr Point Conference Center, Lake Tahoe  
Click [HERE](#) for more information about this event.

**October 18 - 19:**

Leadership Learning Event with Dr. Diana Butler Bass  
Alaska United Methodist Conference, Anchorage  
Click [HERE](#) for more information and the registration form for this event.

Quick Links

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



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to office@pbyukon.org by [office@pbyukon.org](mailto:office@pbyukon.org)  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

Presbytery of Yukon | 616 W. 10th Avenue | Anchorage | AK | 99501