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# Presbytery of Yukon

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November 15, 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.

*And our military chaplains:*

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



## St. Lawrence Island

Thank you so much for the donations that have been coming in for the residents of St. Lawrence Island. We are grateful for your response to this need, having received around \$3000 thus far, and would like to remind everyone that this will be a long-term need. St. Lawrence Island will need our assistance throughout the winter months as the economic situation and food shortage will be most dire

### The Residents of St. Lawrence Island Need Our Immediate Assistance

This spring the St. Lawrence Island communities of Gambell and Savoonga were declared an economic disaster area due to the extremely low walrus harvest. The unusually wet and cold weather, coupled with ice pack around the island, lead to only 36% of the average yearly harvest. These communities rely on the walrus for food and the ivory from the walrus tusks is vital to the local economy. This year's low harvest has placed an extremely heavy economic burden on the people of these communities, as they lack both the food and cash needed to support themselves and their families.

The Presbytery of Yukon is in the process of applying for an Immediate Needs Grant through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). Other courses of assistance are being pursued as well, as the PDA grant is only a drop in the bucket compared to the assistance that is required.

With that concern in mind, the Presbytery of Yukon, together with local ecumenical partner denominations, is asking for cash donations to help support the people of St. Lawrence Island in this time of need. The Presbytery of Yukon will be coordinating this endeavor and asks that donations be sent to their office at 616 W. 10th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501. Please make the checks payable to the Presbytery of Yukon and be sure they are designated "St. Lawrence Assistance Fund". Individual churches may also set up special offerings designated to help the residents of the island.

Thank you so much for your assistance and please keep the communities in your prayers. Together we can make a huge impact on the lives of those in need.

The Presbytery office  
will be closed on  
Thursday, November  
28th and Friday,  
November 29th.

Have a safe and  
blessed Thanksgiving!

First Korean Presbyterian Church in Anchorage is looking for a temporary English minister. Responsibilities would include a Sunday sermon (in English) and leading youth activities on Friday evenings. If you are interested in applying for the position, please mail your resume to:

**First Korean Presbyterian Church**  
**ATTN: Elder Bang**  
**3300 Wyoming Drive**  
**Anchorage, AK 99517**

You can also contact Elder Bang at 907-727-1057 for more information.

**Congratulations to  
Rev. Murray Richmond of  
Fairbanks who was called  
to the First Presbyterian  
Church in Medford,  
Oregon!**

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY  
WEEKLY UPDATE *from*

Linda Valentine

## Addressing hunger together in a world of abundance



Greetings to members of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board, mid council executives, and friends,

Reformation Day is a day on which we Presbyterians are called with our brothers and sisters in the Lutheran and Reformed traditions not only to look back in gratitude to God toward the unique heritage we share but also to consider the present and contemplate the future.

Because alleviating hunger and eliminating its causes stands at the very heart of the church's life, I invite you to take action with us—Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons, General Assembly Moderator Neal Presa, and other Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) leaders and members—by joining in an important new denomination-wide initiative, the [SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge](#).

For one week, November 17–23, we have committed to live on the average daily food stamp benefit of \$4.25\* per person per day (\*in Kentucky). We will experience firsthand how to make careful food shopping choices, learning in the process how challenging it is to avoid hunger, afford nutritious foods, and stay healthy. Up to 49 million Americans have depended upon the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is undergoing deep cuts.

We acknowledge that many people—whether or not they are dependent on SNAP benefits—live within these allowances every day. Financial pressures on so-called middle-class individuals and families are also of great concern: our economy must be just and fair for all.

By joining in the [SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge](#)—and intentionally living within these allowances together—we pray that awareness will be raised, consciences stirred, and actions taken so that all people have access to life's basic necessities. If you are unable to take part in the SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge, our [website](#) contains information on other ways—prayer, action—in which you will be able to participate in the initiative.

Andrew Kang Bartlett, associate for national hunger concerns with the [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#), recently said: "Here's a great time to help other people become aware of hunger in the US and overseas. We've got to look deeper at the underlying causes of hunger and at solving the real tragedy of hunger in a world where there's so much abundance."

May we all continue to work to make our relationships right with God's creation, making good choices that improve the world around us and contribute to the well-being of all of God's children.

Faithfully yours,

*Linda Valentine*

## **Celebration of the Ministry in Nome - November 24th**

The Celebration of the Ministry in Nome and church closing ceremony will be held on Sunday, November 24th at 7pm at the United Methodist Church in Nome. If you are in the area, please join us as for this remembrance and as we celebrate and give thanks for God's work in



Nome over the years.



### **Commissioning of Rev. Dr. David Woo S. Jeong**

On Sunday, November 10th we celebrated the commissioning of stated supply pastor Rev. Jeong at the Korean Presbyterian Church in Fairbanks. We had a great turn out for the event, including representation from other local Korean Christians. Join us in welcoming Rev. Jeong and his family and keep them in your prayers.

Birchwood Camp is hosting their annual **Winter Youth Break-Away camp** on **December 27-30, 2013!**

This is a wonderful event for middle school and high school youth in grades 6-12. All YOUTH from the Alaska PLUME family (Presbyterian, ELCA Lutheran, United Methodist, Episcopal churches) are invited to attend! The retreat program is inclusive and ecumenical and will



be a time for enjoying worship and fellowship together as well as exploring fun Winter activities indoors and outdoors.

For more information or to register online, visit:  
<http://birchwoodcamp.org/camps/>.



## [Save the Date! Ecumenical Advocacy Days: March 21-24, 2014](#)



You're invited to the 12th annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days, a four-day conference in Washington, D.C. that brings hundreds of participants from the Christian community together with policy experts, faith leaders, and advocacy specialists. Participants in the 2014 gathering, which will take place from March 21-24, will explore the theme of *Jesus Weeps: Resisting Violence, Building*

*Peace* through workshops, plenary sessions, issue analysis, advocacy training, and meetings with elected officials. Join us! Click [here](#) to learn more or register for the 2014 gathering.

## Mark Your Calendars...

### **November 22nd-24th:**

Camp Ministry Discernment Event

Sound View Camp & Retreat Center (near Tacoma, WA)

For more information or to register online, click [here](#).

### **November 28th-29th:**

Thanksgiving Holiday (Presbytery office will be closed)

### **December 1st:**

1st Day of Advent

### **December 23rd-27th:**

Presbytery office will be closed for the Christmas holiday

### **December 25th:**

Christmas Day

### **December 27th-30th:**

Birchwood Camp's Winter Youth Break-Away

For more information or to register online, click [here](#).

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

Next Presbytery Meeting - Location to be determined

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

Ecumenical Advocacy Days

Washington D.C.

Click here to visit the website for more information.

## Quick Links

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[Presbyterians for Earth Care](#) | [Presbyterian Foundation](#)



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