



# Presbytery of Yukon

December 9, 2016

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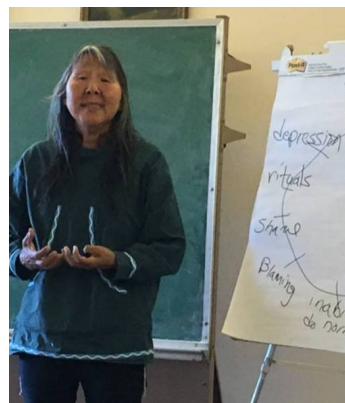
The Tennessee families and businesses affected by the recent wildfires

## Stay Connected



Visit Our Website:  
[www.PBYukon.org](http://www.PBYukon.org)

## Moving from Apology to Christ's Healing in Alaska?



Last June the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) recognized the need to offer an apology to Native American peoples for their unintended hurt brought about by our actions in ministry (see last week's eNews). However, the Native Ministries Committee of the Presbytery of the Yukon is exploring the possibility that God may be opening new doors of ministry as Alaska Native Christians show the way for bringing healing.

On October 6 Dorothy Bekoalok gave a presentation to the Native Ministries Committee when they met in Fairbanks. Ms. Bekoalok, an Iñupiaq woman from Shaktoolik, spoke about the immense trauma faced by peoples in villages across Alaska. The causes of the trauma ranged from western diseases that decimated whole villages, to cultural shaming from the growing western culture through enforced loss of language, branding certain Native practices as satanic or "heathen."

Psychologists have shown that such ongoing trauma creates a unique type of post-traumatic shock called historical or generational trauma. This kind of post-traumatic shock requires intentional healing, if it is not to take many more generations to resolve.

Dorothy Bekoalok noted that the needed healing that is required works best when combined with the healing power and forgiveness offered through the grace of Jesus Christ through the power of the Spirit. Bekoalok points to Hebrews 12:15 as a biblical marker for the kind of healing that is required:

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and through it many become defiled.

The healing power of the Holy Spirit is essential in helping people to get beyond the resentment and bitterness such trauma creates. The bitterness can't help but come out in ways that passes trauma on to others, thus extending the damage done. On the other hand true healing, the healing God desires and empowers, works through forgiveness to transform everyone involved for living together in the harmony of God's grace.

As the Native Ministries Committee participated in Bekoalok's presentation, they began asking some important questions. Can we go beyond apologizing for what

has happened to healing of those carrying the trauma? Are there ministries we can facilitate within our presbytery that bring such healing?

Of course, generational trauma comes from somewhere. How did the majority culture become so blind that it would traumatize others so readily? How do racist, sexist and other damaging ways of thinking become so acceptable to us? This writer has a theory on that. Across America, and in our own family-trees and friendship circles, all Americans must see that addiction, violence (including domestic violence), sexual abuse, depression and suicide are powerful parts of our society. In the end the healing has to be for everyone, because all of us are affected. This may be a moment when God is opening the door for ministry that brings healing to us all.

*Curtis E. Harms*

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## Service Added at New Hope

### **Contemporary service added to New Hope ministries**

The New Hope Methodist Presbyterian Church, 2371 Bradway Road in North Pole, announces the addition of a contemporary service at 6 p.m. Saturdays, led by Matt Tinklenberg and Mary Ann Smith. The service is followed by a time of fellowship for all.

Traditional service is offered at 11 a.m. Sundays, also followed by a time of fellowship. Sunday School for all ages is at 9:30 a.m. New Hope Church is home to the New Hope Preschool, led by director Tara Clark. Enrollment is ongoing. The preschool website can be found at: [www.nhmipc/page/preschool](http://www.nhmipc/page/preschool).

For information on New Hope ministries, visit the website, [www.nhmipc.com](http://www.nhmipc.com), or call the church at 488-9191.

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## From Mission Co-Workers Ryan & Alethia White

Dear friends,

We hope each of you are well as Advent season is soon upon us. Here are the latest letters from Berlin, including one from late summer that wasn't sent earlier. Our apologies and we hope you find time for some reading :)

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/letter/gods-hands-feet/>

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

[refuge-light-hope/](#)

Our prayer of peace from Berlin to you,

Rev. Ryan and Alethia White

Presbyterian Church (USA) Mission Co-workers

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/ryan-and-alethia-white/>

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## Mark Your Calendars

**December 25,  
2016**



### Christmas Day

The Presbytery office will be closed the week of December 26th - 30th in observance of the Christmas holiday. For any immediate need that week, please contact Rev. Curt Karns at 350-3969.

**January 1, 2017**



### Happy New Year!

Wishing you and your family a blessed New Year!

**February 24-25,  
2017**

### Our Next Presbytery Meeting

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Anchorage

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

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