

The catholic Church

In the apostles creed, there is the line, "I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church..." This line about the catholic church sometimes throws people off, especially if their church government is not centered out of Rome. The word 'catholic' means universal. The church of God is not limited to just First Presbyterian Church of Skagway, but includes believers who gather to celebrate Easter from McMurdo research station in Antarctica to the house church in China.

This April, we have the opportunity to experience elements of the catholicism of the church. It starts with Holy Week as we have the Maundy Thursday Dinner and worship to invite friends to. It continues with the 7 p.m. Good Friday service at St. Therese's. It continues with the Community Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. at Pullen Park. Breakfast at the church served by the men continues the community witness to the resurrection. Finally, there is Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 11 with special music being prepared by the choir.

Yet, the city of Skagway will not be the limit of the universal church in April. In addition to the returning faces from around the world that we will see in the church, there are a few upcoming events that hopefully will strengthen our roots within Alaska.

The first is of course Presbytery happening at Northern Light United Church in Juneau. If you are in Juneau during the 17th-19th, I encourage you to stop by and see the larger body of Christ meeting together to support one another.

If traveling is not your thing, do not worry, the church of Haines will come to you. Reverend Ron Horn and a few members from Haines will be here on the 26th to connect with their brothers and sisters in Christ. I will be filling the pulpit in Haines that morning to reconnect with the church that first heard me preach in Alaska and strengthen the ties between our two churches .

While Haines is coming as our closest church, Reverend David Dobler will be visiting on May 16th and 17th representing the Presbytery as the Pastor to the Presbytery. This will be a chance for us to share with him what God has been doing within this body of believers and hear the stories from other churches in Southeast Alaska.

All of this is happening because we believe in a holy catholic church. A church that is united in Christ and his Kingdom.

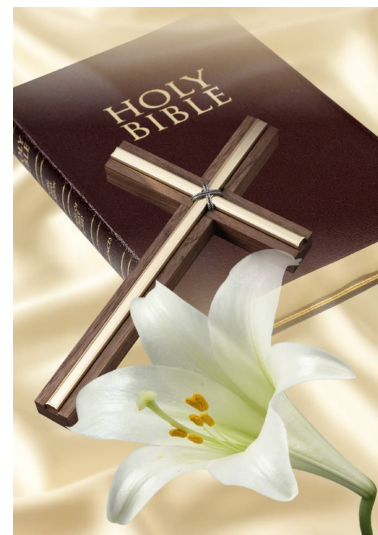
In Christ,

Ryan Mandeville

Ryan

Upcoming Preaching Texts

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------------|
| April 5 | Mark 11:1-11, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 | Palm Sunday |
| April 9 | Exodus 12:1-14, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 | Maundy Thursday |
| April 12 | Mark 16:1-8, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 | Easter Sunday |
| April 19 | T.B.D. | Presbytery |



Session Report

One recent addition to our session activities is our monthly prayer time. Once a month the session meets, outside the parameters of a formal meeting with an agenda, simply and purposefully to pray together. Prayer is a power means of growing the relationship we have with our Father and each other. This time has become a welcomed addition.

We met most recently on March 15, 2008. We talked about pulpit activity with Ryan traveling, Presbytery and the upcoming pulpit exchange with Pastor Horn of Haines. We are very grateful for Stan's leadership as he preached while Ryan was at Shandra Moses and Severin Nelsen's wedding, a couple who have attended during the summer months here for several years and will be returning later this month. Other items of discussion included working on the stair design with Paul Taylor, Easter Breakfast (contact JJ if you can help), a joint meeting with the Deacons next month and fellowship hall use.

Presbytery will be in Juneau this month, April 16-19, 2009, at Northern Lights. Pastor Ryan, Sheryl Dennis and I will be in attendance. Lastly we spent some time talking about the upcoming season. Ryan plans to hold weekly dinners again in the fellowship hall in May, and I would encourage everyone to attend at least once. It is a great opportunity to meet people and what a treat it will be later to exchange pleasantries with fellow Christians that you may never have met.

I feel very blessed and humbled by the work of this congregation and am very thankful for each and every one of you. May the Lord bless you and keep you.

John Tronrud

Session clerk

Deacons Report

Potluck—Potluck—Potluck!

We will be hosting the Maundy Thursday potluck the evening of April 9th. Please check the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall and sign up to bring a side dish; the main course of lamb will be provided.

Pastor Ryan and Pastor Ron are exchanging pulpits on Sunday, April 26th. Following worship we will have a regular potluck—a great opportunity to visit with Ron and Jacque Horn and share some Skagway hospitality.

The annual Welcome Back barbecue potluck will take place after worship on May 10th. Grills and grillers are needed—let a deacon know if you can help.

If you know of anyone in need of aid, visitation, or simply a card we'd love to hear about it. If you have any thoughts or suggestions for our group, let us know!

Choir Notes



Attention Singers

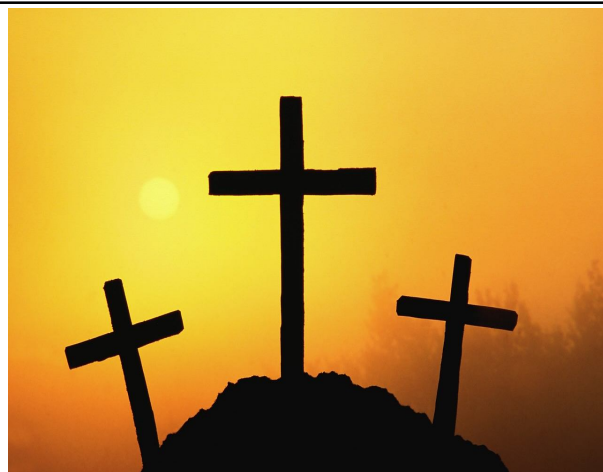
Easter Choir—rehearsals for special Easter music are Wednesday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 11 at 10:30 a.m.

Community Chorus—rehearsals for the Spring Folk Festival follow the choir rehearsal times noted above.

Contact Betsy for more information.

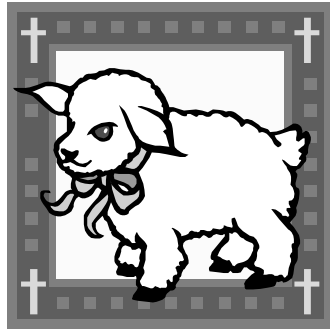
Holy Week Schedule

| | | |
|------------|---|-----------|
| April 9th | Maundy Thursday Dinner | 6:00p.m. |
| | Communion Worship Service | 7:00p.m. |
| April 10th | Good Friday Service, St. Therese Catholic Church | 7:00p.m. |
| April 12th | Sunrise Service, Pullen Pond | 7:00a.m. |
| | Community Breakfast Following Easter Worship | 11:00a.m. |



Sunday School

The
LORD
is my



SHEPHERD

We have devoted the last 5 weeks to studying Psalm 23.. It's been fun to learn how God is like a good shepherd who takes care of his sheep. He provides for our needs; he knows what is good for us, even when we don't; he leads us in right living; he protects and comforts us when we are afraid; and he makes us feel special. Just like sheep, we don't always make the best choices. But when we follow the Good Shepherd, we enjoy a life of goodness and mercy.

Along the way we met some new puppet friends who were well qualified to tell us a few things about shepherds and sheep. First, we met a wayward little lamb puppet with a knack for getting in trouble. Her name is Woolamina Lamb Chops, or Woolie for short. Woolie was lost, and told us all about the shepherd that takes care of their flock., and the two sheep-dogs, Goodness and Mercy, who help him. Before long one of the dogs, Mercy, came along to fetch Woolie. They've returned each week to tell us more about their shepherd, which has helped us to learn about our Good Shepherd.



Sunday School
Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 11th
1:00 p.m.

Bible Study

Tuesday Night Study

We continue to be *Surprised By Hope* on Tuesday nights. Our understanding of the value of the resurrection of Christ has been deepened and are now experiencing the natural outpouring of questions that comes with a proper understanding. Things can not remain the same and worldviews must shift. Shifting they are. So come and join us sometime over the next 10 weeks and see how the resurrection of Christ does not allow us to believe certain things about this current world and the new world and new heaven to come.

| | | |
|----------|-----------|--|
| April 7 | Chapter 6 | <i>What the Whole World Has Been Waiting For</i> |
| April 14 | Chapter 7 | <i>Jesus, Heaven, and the New Creation</i> |
| April 21 | Chapter 8 | <i>When He Appears</i> |
| April 28 | Chapter 9 | <i>Jesus, the Coming Judge</i> |

We Give Thanks...

Kudos to all the thespians who entertained us in the production of *Bye Bye Birdie*, especially those in our church family: Nikita, Lynette, Marcus, Trysten, Dainean, Kara, Jessica, Johanna, Josena, Betsy and Ryan—Well Done!

Welcome, new members, to our church family—Betsy Albecker, Bill Hunz, Willeke Burnham, Perry Ford, Carol Borg, Steve Manders, and Chris Nohrenberg! *"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel..." Phil. 1:3-5a*

We appreciate Stan and Maxine Selmer for filling in while Ryan was away. Thank you, Maxine, for your 'magnetic' children's sermon. Thank you, Stan, for bringing the morning message, a difficult—but not impossible— task!

Congratulations to Nikita, Soo and the rest of the Lady Panthers on a super showing at State!

March Regular Offering

\$8599.39

Worship: \$8523.54

SS: \$75.85

2009 Monthly budget goal = \$7,613

Per Capita Reimbursement: \$240.00

Thanks for your support!

The following letter and update comes from Vance and Juanita Frankamp, the missionaries working in Thailand that we supported last year: "Our focus this year has been to search for and establish relationships with key people in Thailand that are working with Community Development and Caring for Children at Risk. These desires have been granted. God has given us a wonderful web of friends and has networked us with seasoned and experienced people with whom we are able to journey. The learning curve has been very steep and our experiences have been

Ryan and church family,

Thank you for your latest donation of \$300. The words "thank you" are not adequate to express how grateful we are for your interest in helping care for children at risk. What is even more remarkable is that you have given without receiving much communication from us. God has been challenging us to do a much better job communicating with those who are partnering with us and we are committed to improve in this area.

Your first gift purchased a water pump and 250 meters of heavy wire to pump water onto the rice patties before planting. The rice planting and harvest was very successful and was a huge step in seeing the 32 children at Baan Birk Faa regain confidence and hope of starting to provide for themselves. The pump has been loaned to several other homes and plays a critical function during the beginning of each rice season. (They only get water for 3 or 4 days at the beginning of each growing season and you must pump all the water you need from the irrigation canal during that time window. You don't get a second chance for water and if you don't get it then you cannot plant your rice seedlings.)

We are currently working with three separate children homes, one in Chiang Mai and two north of Chiang Mai near the Burma border. Each home is in a different stage of development, each with different needs and opportunities. As a rule we are not primarily driven by "need" but rather by which home represents the greatest potential of long term growth and which homes are capable of extended influence toward other homes. What I mean is that as the caregivers and directors see and catch the vision they begin to give to other homes that are in even greater need. When we see "receivers" become "givers" we know that the success of the primary receiving home can be multiplied many times over. Many homes never see the opportunity of giving because they are locked in the receiving mode of relief. Development occurs when there is a heart transformation, it is the revelation that "I can give and God will re-supply our needs" "I don't have to hold tightly onto what I have!"

Another wonderful part of this strategy is that it removes us "westerners" from being in the front line to more of a supporting and facilitating role. We are looking for and praying for these model homes (by the way this does not mean that they are perfect) that have a heart to give to other homes and can see this transformation occur over and over again.

Your current gift: We have not distributed your money as of yet although we are considering using it with other funds to develop a new home in Chiang Dao, 1 1/2 hours north of Chiang Mai. This couple, Montree and Supa, have a proven heart and will be very effective in caring for the 10 orphans they have selected from surrounding hill tribe villages.

We love to host short term mission trips, Thailand is a wonderful place to visit. The trips are filled with fun things to do like riding elephants, shopping in local markets, wonderful food and a chance to see first hand what we are doing with children at risk. You are welcome to come, so pray and see what God says. If any one in the Church wants more information or more contact with us please share this letter and our e-mail address with them as you see fit.

We will keep you informed as your money is distributed. We also want you to know that 100% of each donors gift is given to the direct support of children. We are enjoying this work that God has called us to do. We are learning so much about His faithfulness and His love that He is opening up for us to walk in!!

Again thank you for your support and patience with us.

Vance and Juanita Frankamp

PS, April is in Mexico at an orphanage for handicapped children, she will be there for 2 months. She has been a great encouragement to us in our work and a most wonderful daughter.



Presbytery News

The Story of a Poem

The March/April edition of the Presbytery newsletter, *Panhandle News*, had a feature on Elizabeth Peratrovich, who is honored every February 16th on the anniversary of her famous speech that turned the tides of racial discrimination in Alaska. Elizabeth was an alumna of Sheldon Jackson College and had ties to the Presbyterian Church. Rev. George Pasley, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Ketchikan, wrote a poem about Elizabeth. In response to that poem, Elizabeth's daughter called George and shared some personal background to her mother's public victory. Here is his account of their conversation:

Wow! This morning I received a phone call from Loretta Peratrovich Montgomery, Elizabeth Peratrovich's daughter. By way of several forwards, probably through the grapevine of the Presbyterian Church, she just received a copy of my poem, sent to her by her brother Roy. Her call was to say how much she enjoyed the poem. Thanks Lori!

The story is well known in Alaska that the large hotel in Juneau, the Baranof, had been closed to natives. After the anti-discrimination law was signed, Elizabeth and Roy went to the Baranof to dance. Loretta told me "Everyone cleared the floor and stood back and let them have the floor. They were beautiful dancers."

This was in 1945, long before the civil rights in the south. In later years, Elizabeth Peratrovich was honored with a state holiday in her name, on the anniversary of the enactment of the law. I am told that Elizabeth's adopted parents, the Wanamakers, were quite active in the Presbytery of Alaska and never missed a Presbytery meeting. I have since been told that Elizabeth and Roy attended the Memorial Presbyterian Church in Juneau (*see note below*), where Walter Soboleff was pastor. Loretta told me she and her husband are members at Moses Lake Presbyterian Church in Washington.

When Loretta was growing up she was very good friends with Walter's daughter, and they used to sit in the front pew together. Walter would preach in both Tlingit and English, and whenever he would start into Tlingit the girls "would giggle so hard we'd almost fall out of the pew" because the Tlingit language has such different sounds than English. Their giggles would always draw harsh looks from Walter. Loretta attended Sheldon Jackson College for a while, and traveled every year with the choir on the college boat, the Princeton Hall. She said that wherever they stopped, she met relatives she hadn't known before and it was always exciting.

Loretta told me her parents were "very smooth" when they danced. In those days the Baranof had a live orchestra, and her parents' favorite song was "The Tennessee Waltz." Loretta said that after her mother died, Roy would always have a hard time whenever he heard The Tennessee Waltz.

The best available biography of Elizabeth, and story of the legislative debate, is written by David Kiffer (current mayor of the Borough of Ketchikan), and can be found on line at http://www.sitnews.us/Kiffer/Peratrovich/021808_e_peratrovich.html

Note: The Memorial Presbyterian Church in Juneau is now called the Northern Light United Church (NLUC) and is where our Spring Presbytery meeting is being held. Dr. Walter Soboleff will be preaching at the Sunday morning service. If you missed the last presbytery newsletter and would like a copy, contact Ryan or Sheryl.

My Favorite Story About Elizabeth

My favorite story about Elizabeth is not the speech she gave from the gallery in the capitol, not the anger she voiced against injustice, not the love she shared with Roy, not the leadership she gave to her people, not her sense of fashion, nor even her exquisite beauty (which I would have liked to see!).

My favorite story about Elizabeth is not her cleverness in debate against the Senators of Alaska, not that fact that she set aside her knitting before she stood to speak that day, nor the fact that the galleries then broke out into applause (though I surely would have cheered).

But YES, my favorite story about Elizabeth Peratrovich is this: After the legislature passed the bill banning discrimination, after the governor of the territory signed the bill into law, the first one in the nation, Elizabeth and Roy shined their shoes and went together dancing, all night long.

Let us do the same,
at least in spirit,
whenever injustice is put to rest.

George R. Pasley
Ketchikan, Alaska
February 12, 2009

First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 513
475 Main St.
Skagway AK 99840

Phone: 907-983-2260

E-mail: sgypres@aptalaska.net
www.fpcskagway.org



Our mission....

"As children of God we embrace our call to share the Good News of the Gospel through worship, fellowship and open doors providing a nurturing environment as we grow in Christ and minister to our greater community."

Everyone Welcome! "Where the SON always shines!"

Sundays

Sunday School 9:45 am
Choir Practice 10:15 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
**Fellowship following service

Tuesdays

Bible Study *Surprised by Hope*
*meet in Pastor's Study 7:00 pm

Thursdays

Women's Prayer Group 7:00 am
**meet in church overflow in April

Fridays

Senior Lunch Noon
Fellowship Hall

Sundays

Boy Scouts meet in church
basement 4:30 p.m.

Dates to Remember:

Spring Presbytery April 17-19
Ryan, John T. & Sheryl attending

Session & Deacons Joint Meeting
Thursday, April 23rd, 6:00 p.m.

Hns-Sgy Pulpit Exchange & Ptluck
Sunday, April 26th

Newsletter Deadline
Wednesday, April 29th

Next Communion Observed

Thursday, April 9th
Sunday, May 3rd

Pastor to the Presbytery
Rev. David Dobler visits May 16-17

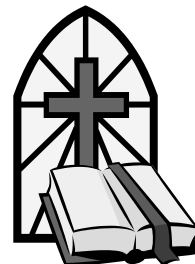
List of Officers

Session

Lizzie Carlson
Mark Maggi
Stan Selmer
Tim Roseberg
John Tronrud

Deacons

Elaine Brummett
Si Dennis
Buckwheat Donahue
Pattie Maggi
Donna Powell
Su Rappleye



Mar. Attendance

1st – 44
8th – 25
15th – 50
22nd – N/A
29th – N/A

Pastor Ryan Mandeville 983-2260 Cell phone 973-2042 rmandevi@gmail.com

Scheduling the Fellowship Hall

If anyone is interested in scheduling the use of the fellowship hall, please call Ryan Mandeville, 983-2260.