

First Presbyterian Church of Skagway, Alaska

June 2008

Newsletter

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What I Did On My Summer Vacation

It is great to be back in Skagway after my first vacation/study leave. I learned/was reminded of many things while I was gone. The first is, Skagway will continue to exist without me. That was reassuring and humbling to me at the same time. There is a part of each of us that likes to believe we are the cause of the universe's movement. To have moments that cause us to realize that life will go on, maybe not as smoothly or as we would like, but will go on, is important to be reminded of.

It also makes us ask the question, "If the world does not revolve around me, who does it revolve around?" Anytime we pursue that question to the end, we come face to face with the Triune God. I sometimes envision God sitting at the end of that mental trail on a stone, with a smile on his face asking me, "Who were you expecting to find here?"

That question knocked on my skull all vacation long. As weather put holds on our itinerary for the ski traverse, avalanches rumbling down certain south facing slopes altered our travel path, the sixty pound pack weighed in on my legs for the next climb, I found myself being reminded that I was not going to accomplish this trip by mere will power. Traveling in the remote backcountry makes you keenly aware of the need for God's oversight and blessing.

As I entered back into civilization God continued the same message throughout the conference. During the four days, we looked at the prayer life through the perspective of the Psalms, three saints of the church, and John 17. The psalms showed the endless extent to which God reigns. No matter the crisis, as we enter into his presence, we find him there in the midst of the situation. The saints showed that no matter our calling and how busy life seems to get, it is possible to stay focused on God. John 17 opened up the one who taught us to pray, Jesus', heart. What, how, and why he called upon the Father for.

In the end, there was no doubt that God did, does, and always will reign. God is sovereign in all that is visible and invisible, God has a purpose in all that has, is, and will happen, and God calls us to see him in all that we experience.

These reminders help keep me sane and hopefully fill you with hope for the future as well. I do not control the universe, which is a good thing, otherwise hymn numbers would be wrong all the time. God does, and this God desires us to know him and bring him glory through our lives. We just need to realize that.

Blessings,

Ryan Mandeville

Ryan Mandeville



P.S. Thank you for all who helped make leaving a smooth operation. Thank you to Stan for preaching, community wide dog-walkers, house sitters, and patient people who waited for responses.

Session Report

The session will be meeting this Sunday, June 1st. We have many projects ongoing or incomplete at this time.

We have been asked by the presbytery to find a PCUSA missionary that we would be willing to support, we have still not found that mission.

We have many building issues, the manse needs to be caulked and painted, trim in the wheelchair ramp needs to be finished, refractory of the church chimney and a whole list which we are compiling to look at long term through a Rasmusen grant. If anyone has time or talent your help would be appreciated.

It was a blessing and joyful time to have Jayce, Johanna, and Nikita join us as members in Christ's calling through baptism recently. May the Lord bless us and keep us safe as we reach out to the many who pass through these doors this summer.

John Tronrud/ Session clerk

Choral Notes

Last night I had the strangest dream, I never dreamed before – I dreamed the world had all agreed to put an end to war...



Anyone who is a regular at Skagway FPC and hears the above song immediately thinks of Barbara Kalen and Memorial Day. Barbara and Betsy used it for Memorial Day special music about 30 years ago, and it has become a tradition to sing it almost every Memorial Day since then, often accompanied by Barbara on her autoharp. Barbara wasn't here for Memorial Day – and we couldn't sing it without her! – so the annual singing of "The Strangest Dream", written by Pete Seger, will be at the morning service on June 1st.

The choir practices Sunday mornings at 9:15. New singers are always welcome! Also, if you would like to share solo or ensemble special music, please contact Betsy or Ryan.

Deacons Report

Many thanks go out in this Deacon's Note.

Connie's family sorted through the house quite a bit when they were here and asked that the proceeds from the items that went into the garage sale be split between the church and her scholarship fund. Donna Powell took charge of the sale with a great spirit that would make Connie proud. Two weekends in a row, we opened the garage to share some great deals. What really happened, though, was a wonderful exchange with many folks, sharing stories of Connie and how she impacted their lives. It was almost a memorial service all over again. Thank you to the Conard family for their generosity and Donna for your willing spirit and all those that volunteered their time to make this happen.

We have been organizing Sunday night dinners for the Burnham's the last couple of months, to give them a night off from kitchen duty and just enjoy a meal together. Thank you to all of our church family for sharing your favorite meals and of yourselves.

We are in the process of updating the prayer chain. If you haven't already, please drop a line to Jan at whitehse@aptalaska.net or call 983-9000 to be sure you are listed and that we have the correct phone numbers.

We are re-working our committees a little this year, trying to evaluate where our energies are best spent and what areas we may need to put forth more effort. If you have any thoughts, it would be greatly appreciated.

While there are only six at a time that hold the title of Deacon, this entire congregation really does execute the duties of the office and we are ever so lucky to have members that care and give and strive towards God's calling in their lives.

In thanks and praise on behalf of all of us,

Jan, Donna, Su, Elaine, Judy and Pattie



Yarn Group

"Connie's Caps" has grown to a total of 88 caps and 18 scarves all made by Dirce, Shirley, and Maxine. (Last month's count was 44 caps/10 scarves.)

One of the recipients of "Connie's Caps" will be Clare House in Anchorage. The services there are designed to help families find a path out of despair and into hope. In FY 2007, Clare House sheltered 671 individuals, 54% who were children under 18 years old.

Let's all honor Connie's memory by making hats and scarves!! Hats can be knit, crocheted, fleece. Dirce, Maxine, and Shirley will be happy to help you with any questions. Or contact Maxine if you need a pattern or yarn, or to drop off your finished items.

Pattern for Connie's Caps

Size G, H, or I hook

4-ply worsted weight yarn

Chain 65 (or however many chains for the circumference of the head)

Row 1: Dc in 3rd ch from the hook and in each ch across. Ch3. Turn.

Rows 2-33 (or until hat measures approximately 12" in height): Dc in 2nd st in from edge chain, and across to end of row. Ch 3. Turn.

Sew sides together. For top make a running st through the last row of dc and gather tightly. Add a colorful pompom to the top if you desire.

Pattern Copyright Beverly A. Qualheim 2005, 2008.

Prayer Shawls: *wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter, beautify...*

Do you know of someone who might be comforted or uplifted by a Prayer Shawl? These shawls are knitted and crocheted with prayer by individuals in our church community. Before being given away, special prayers for the recipient are prayed by our Ladies' Prayer Group and a card is enclosed with the shawl. We have some shawls standing by to be given away. Contact Maxine or Dirce for a shawl or more information on making your own.

Shall We Pray

The women's prayer group meets every Thursday at 7:00 a.m. and welcomes any women who wish to join us. If you are not comfortable with praying out loud, don't let that stop you from coming – no one is pressured to do so, and we know God hears our prayers, whether spoken or silent. We meet at Dirce Spurrier's house, located on 8th Avenue between State and Main.

"This journey has taught me that God doesn't use us to get projects done, he uses projects to get us done."

-Dr. Scott Dudley, Senior Pastor
First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue, Bellevue WA

Lord,

Our days are long
and our schedules are full.
You said when we are weary
we can come to you
and you will give us rest.
So we come to you now and ask you to...

**Renew Our Spirits
Restore Our Strength
Refresh Our Hearts**

Thank you for being the source of all we need
to do everything you have called us to do.
Because that is the only place
we can truly be rejuvenated.

Amen

Holly Gerth, writer

Seven Secrets of Stress Management

By Rick Warren

Then Jesus said, "Let's get away from the crowds for a while and rest." There were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat. Mark 6:31 (NLT)

Jesus experienced enormous stress and pressure, yet it didn't seem to disturb his peace of mind. In spite of opposition, constant demands, and little privacy, his life reflected a calm sense of balance.

What was his secret?

Identification - Know who you are (John 8:12)

Eighteen times Jesus publicly defined himself. There was no doubt in his mind as to who he was. If you are unsure of your identity, you'll allow others to pressure you into their molds. Trying to be someone you're not causes stress!

Dedication - Know who you want (John 5:30)

You can't please everyone. Even God can't! Just about the time you get "Crowd A" happy, then "Crowd B" will be upset with you. Jesus never let the fear of rejection manipulate him. No one can pressure you without your permission.

Organization - Set clear goals (John 8:14)

Jesus said, "I know where I came from and where I am going." (NIV) Preparation prevents pressure, but procrastination produces it. You work by either priorities or pressures.

Concentration - Focus on one thing at a time (Luke 4:42-44)

You can't chase two rabbits at the same time! Jesus knew how to handle interruptions without being distracted from his primary goal.

Delegation - Don't try to do everything yourself (Mark 3:14)

We get tense when we feel it all depends on us. Jesus enlisted twelve disciples. Don't allow perfectionism, or the fear that others may do a better job, to keep you from involving others in the task.

Meditation - Make a habit of prayer (Mark 1:35)

No matter how busy Jesus got, he found time to get alone to pray everyday. A daily quiet time is a great stress decompression chamber. Use this time to talk to God about your pressures and problems, evaluate your priorities, and discover the rules for successful living by reading the Bible.

Relaxation - Take time to enjoy life (Mark 6:30-31)

Balance is the key to stress management. Work must be balanced with fun and worship.

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Net-Working Dinners

The goal of the May net-working dinners was to provide an opportunity to meet new people and share a meal. Judging from the disappearing food and lively conversation, it was a success! May has come and gone, but many new acquaintances and friendships will continue to grow throughout the summer. Thank you to all who helped with food, setup and cleanup, and special thanks to Ryan and Paul for shopping, cooking and baking. Loved those brownies!

Women's Bible Study

Please join us on Tuesdays, starting June 3rd, from 7:30 – 9:00 pm for a 7-week study for women.

This is a study by Beth Moore titled "**When Godly People Do Ungodly Things**". We will watch a 30 minute video followed by discussion. Some study time will be encouraged (but not required) throughout the week.

Workbooks are available (\$10 donation). For further questions, please contact Lynette, 983-2727.

Sunday Skool 4 Adults

A new adult class began last week. Throughout the summer as Ryan preaches on the Sermon on the Mount, we will meet at 8:00am on Sunday mornings to discuss the sermon text for that morning, along with the accompanying chapter out of the book, "**Studies in the Sermon on the Mount**" by D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones.

Books are still available – suggested donation for the book is \$10 payable to the church. Whether you can attend regularly or occasionally, we hope to see you there!

New Member Class

If you have been coming to church and are curious what it takes to be able to vote or hold office, please consider coming to a new members class. June will likely be the first one, time to be determined based on interest and availability. There is no obligation to join at the end, only the benefits of knowing more about the church you attend and the God you worship.

Thank You!!

Due to the hard work of the crew at Pine Country Yard & Garden and the generosity of Judy Fairbanks, many new shrubs and flowers have been planted on the south lawn of the church. What a beautiful improvement – thank you, everyone!

Singspiration

Summer is here, and Hymn Sing Sundays are back! They are scheduled for the last Sunday of each month. We will host the next hymn sing on June 29th. Come ready to request old and new favorite songs and praise God. Special music is always welcome – let Ryan know if you have something to share.

Regular Offering

May = \$7,625

2008 Monthly budget goal = \$7,613

Thanks for your support!

Attendance

May 4th – 39

May 11th – 48

May 18th – 64

May 25th - 52

"Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day."

Matthew 6:34 RSV

List of Officers

Session

Lizzie Carlson

John Jackson

Mark Maggi

Tim Roseberg

Pat Taylor

John Tronrud

Deacons

Elaine Brummett

Judy Fairbanks

Pattie Maggi

Donna Powell

Su Rappleye

Jan Tronrud

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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

Adult Sunday School 8:00 am
Choir Practice 9:15 am
Morning Worship 10:00 am
**Fellowship following service

Tuesdays

Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm
When Godly People Do Ungodly Things by Beth Moore
**meet in church basement

Thursdays

Women's Prayer Group 7:00 am
**meet at Dirce's house

Fridays

Senior Lunch Noon
Fellowship Hall

Dates to Remember:

Session Meeting
Sunday, June 1st

Deacons Meetings
TBA

Dates to Remember:

Next Communion Observed
Sunday, July 6

Potluck - following service
Sunday, June 29th

Newsletter Deadline
Wednesday, July 2nd



Contact Pastor Ryan Mandeville 983-2260 / cell # 973-2042
Email: rmandevi@gmail.com

If anyone is interested in scheduling the use of the fellowship hall, please contact Pastor Ryan