

Covenant People

Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus, You, and Me. What do all of these people have in common? They are all people with whom God has made a covenant. The first four start out wide and get narrower as time progresses. Adam is given full domain of all that surrounds him with one restriction, not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Adam, as we know, breaks this covenant of works with God and instead of death, becomes the first recipient of the covenant of grace. Evil was promised to be destroyed and Adam and Eve received clothes as a sign of God's continuing provision.

Noah is next to receive the covenant of grace. This time instead of all evil being eliminated in due time, there will never be a flood to destroy all living creatures. In Abraham, the spectrum is again narrowed. We have moved from all existence, to all living creatures, to all humanity as God promises Abraham to bless him and his descendants. In Moses, we narrow the field again and see that this time God blesses a particular people and makes it known that He is their God and they are His people. In David, we reach the narrowest covenant to date, that one day God will establish a descendant upon the throne who will establish God's Kingdom forever.

Following David, the people were well aware of their inability to ever fulfill their part of the covenant. We had failed in the original covenant with Adam and were struggling to live within the covenant of grace as well. By the prophet Jeremiah's time, God knew as well that something needed to change in order for us to fully be His children.

Despite the signs of the covenant that surrounded us we forget God's promises. The bows in the sky after the rain, the circumcised flesh, the tablets of stone with rules to live by, the house of the Lord was insufficient for God's ways to make it into our minds and hearts. So God promised to make a new covenant that would be directly placed on our heart and minds. In doing so, through the covenant fulfilling acts of Jesus Christ, we received the covenant benefits of all the grace covenants.

In Jesus Christ's death and resurrection God provided all that creation needed to live to its' fullest. He ensured that creation would not only never be destroyed, but would be renewed. He enabled people of every race, creed, and nation to be His children. He gave them not only ways to not betray the covenant acts of God, but share those with others. David's throne was not only filled forever, but the throne of the universe was filled forever and the Kingdom of Heaven was established here on earth.

This covenant that Christ initiated is one you and I have entered into as we became Christ's disciples. In our baptism, we entered into the covenant promises of Christ that once again expand back out to all creation instead of being narrowing. I invite you to join me this Lenten season as we study the covenants that God has made and look deeper into how Christ fulfilled them. So that on Easter Sunday, when we proclaim, "He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!" we are also proclaiming and understanding, "The Covenant, sealed in His Blood is Fulfilled, It is Fulfilled Indeed!"

May God make his Covenant Promises real and tangible to you this Lenten Season.

In Christ,

Ryan Mandeville

Ryan

Preaching Schedule for Lent

March 1	Genesis 9:8-17; 1 Peter 3:18-22	Noah
March 8	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Romans 4:13-25	Abraham
March 15	Exodus 19-20:17; 1 Corinthians 1:28-25	Moses
March 22	2 Samuel 7:1-17 Acts 2:22	David

Session Report

In the life of our church and activities within the community, a few dates should be acknowledged. The season of Lent brings with it the longer days and sunshine. The men will host an Easter breakfast again this year, after the sunrise service on April 12. If you would like to help organize or serve, please contact John Jackson. John, thank you for heading up this enjoyable breakfast, once again. Pastor Ryan is planning to have installation during services in the coming two weeks of March. New Officer installation will be March 8th and New Members will be received March 15th. These two weeks will be exciting and special in the growth of our congregation. The Senior lunches continue in the Fellowship Hall and Boy Scouts have begun to meet Sundays at 4:30 to 6 pm, in the church basement.

Another youth program which is searching for support and direction in the community is Big Brothers and Big Sisters. While this program is not church affiliated, they are reviewing the desire and need for this program in Skagway. If you have an opinion, know of a child who needs help, or are willing to support or participate in this group, Nancy Schave or Burl Sheldon (in Haines) would be happy to hear from you. You may hear more about this in the local paper soon.

The session has approved re-investing the money which we have currently held in the Synod, Mission Development Program. At this time, this program provides some of the best return out there and gives an opportunity for congregations in our Synod to access funds for construction or re-modeling. This is just one small way by which we can spiritually help others in Christ. If you would like to consider this program on an individual basis, I have contact information, or visit their website at www.synodmdc.org. Investments can be made with amounts beginning at \$100 dollars.

Spring Presbytery is quickly approaching. I would encourage anyone who may be in Juneau during that week-end to consider attending or even stopping in for a few hours to meet, worship and embrace your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Meetings and worship will be in downtown Juneau at The Northern Lights Church, April 17th to 19th.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you and yours!

John Tronrud/Session clerk

Deacons Report

The Lord provides and for that we are eternally grateful. We are thankful to have Buckwheat joining the Deacons this year, and Si returning for another year and Elaine continuing on to a second term. Donna shall serve as the moderator for 2009 and we look forward to her leadership.

We will be hosting Maundy Thursday potluck the evening of April 9th. A sign up sheet will be available when the date nears. This year, the main course will be lamb. Thank you, Pastor Ryan, for the suggestion. Any questions or if you would like to get on board early, Su Rappleye has graciously agreed to be the lead.

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, we meet next on March 15th.

In thanks and praise, on behalf of all the Deacons,
Su, Donna, Buckwheat, Elaine, Si and Pattie

Choir Notes



Attention Singers: Choir will be rehearsing special Easter music as soon as the musical, *Bye Bye Birdie*, has been performed. We will try for either one evening rehearsal each week or a Saturday rehearsal.

Thank You's

A special thank you to the Birthday Girls for purchasing several new items to meet various needs of the church: a new vacuum cleaner, a new copier, several large print Bibles, and a puppet stage for the Sunday School. The girls have been busy!

Thank you, Shirley, for putting your heart and soul into the beautiful decorations for Valentine's Day!

February Regular Offering \$5640.12

Worship: \$5585.52

SS: \$54.60

2009 Monthly budget goal = \$7,613

Thanks for your support!

Sunday School



Our unit on the Beatitudes ended today. Through scripture, stories, songs, games, crafts and puppets, we've explored how to develop these attitudes into our lives. For the next 5 Sundays we will learn about the ways God takes care of us, as described in Psalm 23. Jesus had many things to say about sheep and shepherds, so his teachings will also guide us during this season of Lent.

Speaking of puppets, we can't say it enough – thank you, Birthday Girls, for the gift of the puppet stage! The stage is portable, so don't be surprised someday if a puppet joins us for worship. Our current puppet, Queenie Bee, was absolutely a-buzz with excitement about her new accommodations! Here is a bit of her conversation with Sheryl:

Queenie: Whoa - how did I get over here?

Sheryl: Queenie, we have a new puppet stage.

Queenie: Where did it come from?

Sheryl: It is a present to our Sunday School from the Birthday Girls.

Queenie: Really? Who are they?

Sheryl: The Birthday Girls like to get together and have birthday parties, and they also raise money to buy special presents for the church.

Queenie: I'm a girl, and I like to have birthday parties, too...can I be one of the Birthday Girls?

Sheryl: The Birthday Girls are a little bit older than you. These "girls" are grown up ladies, and some of them are even grandmas.

Queenie: Oh, you mean these are **really old** girls.

Sheryl: Anyway....what do you think of our new stage?

Queenie: This is sooo cool - it's beeee-utiful! Thank you, Birthday Girls!

Memory and Milon

Meet Milon Sarkar of Bangladesh and Memory Simajabani of Zambia. Through the Sunday School offering and the World Vision organization, we sponsor these two children and rejoice that they are a part of our church family. Over the next couple of months, we'll be sharing with you more about their lives, their countries and World Vision. You can see their pictures on the bulletin board in the church basement. Stop by and say Hi one day, and please keep them in your prayers.

More Modern Phrases & Expressions in the Bible

Like mother, like daughter

Meaning As you know, you teach

Origin Ezekial 16:44 "Everyone who quotes proverbs will quote this proverb about you: **"Like mother, like daughter."**

Keeping your head

Meaning Think all the time

Origin 2 Tim 4:5 But you, **keep your head** in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

Knees knocked together

Meaning Very afraid

Origin Daniel 5:6, Then the king's countenance was changed in him, and his thoughts troubled him; and the joints of his loins were loosed, and his **knees smote one against another..**

Laughingstock

Meaning Embarrassment caused by others

Origin Exodus 32:25 Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a **laughingstock** to their enemies.

Time to Spring Ahead...



Daylight Savings time begins Sunday, **March 8th**. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead on Saturday night!

A Note From Juanita Frankamp's Facebook Page

(This last year the session sent support to Vance and Juanita Frankamp, missionaries in Thailand. The Frankamp's daughter, April, worships with us in the summer, and was featured in the 'Skagway Summer Faces' section of the newsletter last March.)



Dear Family and Friends,

It has been since Thanksgiving that I wrote. I decided that I would write for 10 minutes and you would get the results.

We have been busy with company. It is amazing how having people in your home changes your schedule. And we have been through the Holidays: Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, Chinese New Year. We have been totally encouraged and blessed by having visitors!

We had April for 6 weeks. That visit overlapped with Harlan and Lori and Grandpa Gene's 3 week visit. We planned a lovely holiday in Phuket for Thanksgiving and had a barbeque grilled fish for our "Turkey of the Sea." Our return trip to Chiang Mai was delayed and

detoured by the airport closures in Bangkok. We rented a car and the 6 of us drove to Chiang Mai from Phuket 1400 + kilometers, we took 3 days, stopping in Ao Nang and Hua Hin, and Ayuthaya.

April was our joyful gift at Christmas time. She brought all the ingredients to make our traditional Christmas fudge plus a lot of nice yummy gifts from Scappoose friends. We celebrated Christmas day with the orphan kids from Baan Birk Faa. These are the 32 kids who planted and harvested and are growing again their own rice. We are so proud of their efforts to be more self-sustaining!!

We have enjoyed the company of Jim and Kathy Mask for the past 3 weeks. We have shown them many of the sites of Northern Thailand, driving to the border at Mae Sai, and stopping to see the "Hall of Opium". This excellent museum depicts the terrible effects of the Opium trade. Local schools bring the children to deter drug use. We visited 3 hill tribe villages where we saw first hand the effect of Aids and drugs on the people. Fathers and mothers dying and leaving orphan children in the care of aging impoverished widowed grandmothers.

Jim and Kathy got to go with us to our business classes that we teach to tribal people, in nearby Hang Dong. They visited our church on Sunday mornings and got to meet a few of our friends. I took Kathy to women's bible study that I attend (in English).

We enjoyed seeing a Sea Gypsy Village and found that there were many interesting displays of handcrafted items for sale. Well, that is 20 minutes and all the time I have to tell the tale.



Bible Study

For Lent, we will be starting a new study by N. T. Wright called *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*. As those who have been in the *Screwtape Letters* study are aware of, evil is not necessarily only at work at those things that make the headlining top stories. It is also trying to twist the truths about God in those who look to the Triune God as ruler of their lives.

N. T. Wright walks us through the scriptures that tell us of the Hope we have. He helps us understand not only why we should anticipate our future time in Heaven, but live out the Hope of God's in-breaking Kingdom now. These truths are things that the evil one would not have us hear. He would prefer that we think of heaven as a bunch of people lined up at a gate waiting to get their wings and the stunning designer white robes that go with them. Even this image is unbiblical, yet asserted weekly in things as peaceful as the *Family Circus*.

So come, join in the study and see why we rejoice on Easter! Deepen your understanding of why being with God for eternity is a desirable thing that drives our daily living today.

Mar 3 Chp 1 All Dressed Up and No Place to Go
 Mar 10 Chp 2 Puzzled About Paradise
 Mar 17 Chp 3 Early Christian Hope in Its Hist. Setting
 Mar 24 Chp 4 The Strange Story of Easter
 Mar 31 DVD The Resurrection
 Apr 7 Chp 5 Cosmic Future: Progress or Despair?
 Apr 14 Chp 6 What the Whole World is Waiting For

I am currently trying to figure out if there is a second time that would enable those who are unable to attend on Tuesday nights to attend at a different time. I have heard back from a few people who can not attend on Tuesday night, but need a few more responses in order to pick a second time. Please let me know of times and availability if you are interested. —Ryan

Celebration of Life

(Though saddened by the news of the death of Rev. Karen Parsons, we are grateful for the many warm memories she left behind. Jan and Sheryl have shared some reflections on her time with us.)

The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of God stands forever. Isaiah 40:8

For many of us, this passage brings to mind the vibrant and loving smile that Pastor Karen Parsons brought to our sanctuary. Karen ministered to our congregation in 2001-2002. Her southern hospitality and contagious smile were a joy. She could often be found at the Sweet Tooth, and that's where a few of us recently gathered to remember her and celebrate her life. While Skagway was not her ultimate calling, while here she made a big difference in many lives. Sadly for us, though, she passed from our midst into the loving arms of God our Father on January 30, 2009. Her sudden passing caught us all by surprise.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with her husband, Steve; daughter, Anna; and son, Will. If you would like to send a message to the family, their address is 1420 Pennsylvania Avenue, Berwyn, PA 19312. Karen will be sorely missed, but I know, from personal experience, she left a mark on many lives, sharing the Good News and nurturing the flock as the Good Shepherd called her to. —Jan

Rev. Karen Parsons served as our pastor from August 2001 through December 2002. Karen embraced our community and enriched our lives with her creativity, warmth and humor. Since hearing of her death and reflecting on her life, a song has been in my heart and on my mind. *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore* was a favorite song of Karen's. My first time to hear it was when we sang it at her installation service. Now, whenever I hear it, I will think of her, and smile. —Sheryl

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

1. Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
 looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones.
 You only asked me to follow humbly.

Refrain: O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
 kindly smiling, have spoken my name.
 Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
 by your side I will seek other seas.

2. You know so well my possessions;
 my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
 But nets and fishes -- my daily labor.

3. You need my hands, full of caring,
 through my labors to give others rest,
 and constant love that keeps on loving.

4. You, who have fished other oceans
 ever longed-for by souls who are waiting,
 my loving friend, as thus you call me.

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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

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 at Dirce Spurrier's

Faithfully Fit 1:00 pm
**meet at Dirce Spurrier's

Mondays, Wednesdays, and

Fridays Noon
Senior Lunch Fellowship Hall

Dates to Remember:

Session Meeting
Sunday, March 15th 8:00 am

Deacons Meeting
TBA

Potluck - following service
Sunday, March 1st & 29th

Newsletter Deadline
Wednesday, April 1st

Next Communion Observed
Sunday, April 5th



List of Officers

<u>Session</u>	<u>Deacons</u>
Lizzie Carlson	Elaine Brummett
Mark Maggi	Si Dennis
Stan Selmer	Buckwheat Donahue
Tim Roseberg	Pattie Maggi
John Tronrud	Donna Powell
	Su Rappleye

Feb. Attendance

4th – 32
11th – 39
18th – 39
25th – 43



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.