

Where the SON Always Shines

On the back page of this newsletter, there is the tag line, "Where the SON always shines!" Last year, I thought this was there just to give people hope. It was there to remind them not only that Jesus Christ reigns in this world at all times, but to remind them that there is also a big fiery ball of gas that this planet orbits around.

After the past week, that rationale seems somewhat distant. It seems the sun always does shine. With the sunshine the past week, it is good to stop and reflect what has been different about your life and your attitude towards it? What things did you do this week that you have not done in a long time?

The first thing I have noticed is earlier mornings. As the sun comes blazing through the curtains at 5 a.m. in full force, my body keeps on waking up thinking I have missed the day, only to realize that the day has just begun. In the darkness of winter, we all experienced a limited period of life before we were ready to crawl into bed. Now it is the opposite, the sun seems to be giving unending life. Someone remind me to go to bed earlier!

The second thing I have noticed is that the sun has drawn us outside of the familiarity of our homes and selves. The inside projects that we have been working on are playing second fiddle to our 'yard projects.' I even raked my yard the other day by planning out where the sun would shine. Early in the morning, back yard; in the evening, front yard. As we have been drawn out of our homes and into the wider world, we have also connected with people we have not seen for sometime. That could be because they were not here all winter, but hopefully all of us have had a few good chances to reconnect with people.

The third and final thing I will mention here and you can build upon them yourselves, is the joy that we all have found with no other reason than the sun is shining. The last minute rush to be ready for the cruise ships has been softened by the sun and everyone is a little calmer, I think.

Now, the twist. This is what the sun has done, what does the SON do to us when we realize He is always shining as well? The Son also gives life! Eternal life is one gift of the Son, but the life does not start just after we have died, but is currently being reflected through each one of us as we spend time in him. Just as the sun leaves a mark that is noticeable to others that we have been dwelling in it (thank you God for Aloe), Jesus Christ, God's Son leaves a mark that is noticeable to others that we have been dwelling in Him. We become lights to the world.

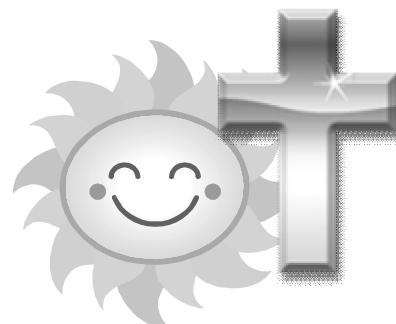
As the sun has drawn us out of our homes, so the SON draws us out of ourselves. We are no longer content to just focus on making ourselves right. We become aware of the wider world around us. Hopefully, the pulpit exchange helped start that. We have Rev. David Dobler visiting this month to continue this. Also, at the joint session-deacon meeting, plans were begun to send some worship teams to Hoonah, Kake, or Angoon this summer and fall.

The SON also provides joy. We no longer are held captive by fear, but know that the Son always does shine. Even when the clouds return to our fair borough, Christ's reign still continues. The joy we have never diminishes. The forgiveness we received in Christ will never dissipate. That is why we can live in such freedom and joy, and let the whole world know what the Son has done for them.

In Christ,

Ryan Mandeville

Ryan



Session Report

Last week the elders and deacons had a joint meeting with Pastor Mandeville. There were many items to discuss, and a report from Presbytery, which was fresh on the minds of those who attended. A summary of Presbytery actions is included in this issue of the newsletter.

The summer schedule will begin on May 10th for service to begin at 10 A.M. Sunday school will no longer be available to the children. Evening worship will begin the following week, May 17th, as Ryan will be gone the week before. On the 17th Reverend David Dobler will be in town to visit with us and we will have a "welcome back" barbecue after morning worship for everyone to meet him and returning summer faces! Please plan to attend.

We would like to also try the "networking dinners" again. To begin with, they will be the evenings of May 13th, 20th and 27th. A need to prepare or clean-up for these meals exists. If you are willing, a sign-up sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend to meet new people in town or just to join others for an evening meal. These meals may continue through the summer, depending upon success.

Ryan's home church is coming to visit to provide Vacation Bible School to the youth and work on projects around the church. It should be a fun filled week! Please plan to spend some time while they are here in any capacity in which you may be available. I am very much looking forward to their visit. We have come up with a list of work projects and if you can help or think of some item needing repair, mention them to an elder or deacon. They arrive on the ferry June 29th!

We also spoke of opportunities by which this church family may reach out to others. Following is a list of possible ideas.....A summer "blessing" service, an "off-season retreat", participate in Chapel by the Lake's spring renewal week end, visit other churches in the Presbytery to help them, extend help to Rainbow Glacier Camp, and a picnic/service (possibly at Bennett)!

As we begin a new summer season may the grace of the Lord extend to us all a joyous and prosperous time.

John Tronrud/Session clerk

Bible Study

Our study of the book *Surprised by Hope*, continues on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the pastor's study. Whether you can make it every week, or just a night here or there, all are welcome!

May 5 – Video presentation by the author

May 12 – Chapter 11

May 19 – Chapter 13

May 26 – Chapter 14

We Give Thanks...

Thank you to Brian Blanchard for sharing the morning sermon while Ryan was gone for Presbytery.

Special Fellowship

Visit with Eva Beeks – Eva will be in Skagway, and would love to see you! Stop by the Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall on Monday, May 11th, between 10 AM and 2 PM to visit with Eva.

Summer Schedule

Summer Schedule: Sunday morning worship at 10:00 a.m. (begins May 10); Sunday evening worship at 7:00 p.m. (begins May 17).

April Regular Offering

\$8196.38

Worship: \$8151.36

SS: \$45.02

2009 Monthly budget goal = \$7,613

Per Capita Reimbursement: \$240.00

Thanks for your support!

Preaching Class

The preaching class offered by Presbytery's Lay Education Committee wrapped up in Juneau last month. Jan, Meredith, Nancy and Sheryl joined 5 other participants from Craig, Klawock, Haines and Juneau to hear and comment on each other's sermons.

Your first opportunity to hear from our group will be on May 10th, when Meredith brings the morning message. Here, in their own words, our students reflect on their experience:

This was my second time taking a preaching class, and it was interesting to see the differences in styles. For example, the first class said "don't talk about yourself", this one said to include personal stories that will help people relate.

I consider myself very fortunate to have heard all the sermons at the end of the class. It was eye-opening to hear all the different interpretations, and styles of presentation.

Unfortunately I stressed out due to three things that occurred one on top of another (I have always had test anxiety, and this seemed to me to be a test like situation--it wasn't). That put me back in the hospital to be "recharged". I have to remember to keep stress to a minimum. The surprising thing is that I don't stress when I talk in church. So, it's okay for me to preach when you need me.

I hope I am able to serve our church better because of this experience.

--Nancy

So this is what one of my friends posted to my Facebook page, upon learning I was taking a preaching class, "Don't you mean you're teaching a class on preaching? Just what we all need is a more refined and articulate communicator coming from a woman that already has the 'I know something you don't' smirk down cold!" I don't know that I came away from the class any more refined, but I do feel better equipped to serve our church and this Presbytery if and when the need arises. I've learned that you don't have to be a preacher in order to serve your local church any more than you have to sit on the City Council to serve your local community. There are lots of ways to serve. There is something for everyone. John Zimmerman led a terrific, insightful class that it was my privilege to participate in, along with Nancy, Sheryl and Meredith, and five others from SE Alaska. I came away feeling blessed and appreciative of the opportunity.

--Jan

I hadn't intended to take the lay preaching class at all. However, after I preached for Ryan one week Jan and Sheryl reminded me that I could still sign up. I decided to join because I wanted to know more about what's involved in thinking about and writing a sermon. The class turned out to be a great blessing and a chance to grow in a number of ways. It was a good class, and I did learn about the mechanics of writing a sermon. But I also learned a lot about how God wants to lead me and that He wants to use my life. He seems to do the most unexpected things, sometimes! It's a good thing I listened when He spoke to me through Jan and Sheryl.

--Meredith

As a sometime preacher, I was excited about this class and the chance to learn specific techniques for sermon preparation and delivery. Our assignment was to prepare and preach a sermon on Luke 15. The biggest blessing for me was our time together in Juneau. One passage, two days, nine sermons. One might expect a fair amount of overlap and repetition, but the sermons were as diverse and unique as the students. It was so affirming to see how God worked through each of us – who we are, our personal styles and stories – to bring fresh ways of sharing his word. Here's another affirmation – no matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey, God can use you to build his kingdom. And that's a lesson for us all!

--Sheryl

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts. —1 Corinthians 12:27-31

In Mission Together

Are you curious about what kinds of mission and ministry other presbyteries are sponsoring in our Synod? What opportunities do we have to broaden the scope of our giving to include mission in other areas? One place to look for information is on the Synod website at www.synodnw.org, which has a link called *Capture the Heart* that highlights projects representing the work of Christ by our brothers and sisters across the Synod. Here you can learn about ministries with youth, Native Americans, immigrants, and families in need, offering camp scholarships, jail ministry, winter fuel assistance, and many other needs. Areas of outreach include the Yakima Indian Reservation, the First Cambodian Presbyterian Ministry of Tacoma, and St. Lawrence Island, where the Presbytery of Yukon hopes to build a new church in Gambell, 35 miles from Siberia, in the summer of 2010.

As individuals and as a church, may we always ask that God "capture our hearts" for the sake of the Gospel in this corner of the globe.

Sunday School

As we complete the 2008-2009 Sunday School season it's hard to believe that I have taught Sunday School for 3 years already. It has been such a blessing to spend each Sunday with God's wonderful and special children of Skagway. They are full of love, spunk, creativity, energy, fun, joy, and most importantly the desire to learn more about Jesus. They have taught me so much!

As a matter of fact, many of them have already been doing God's work as Jesus commissioned us to do, *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* (Matthew 28:19-20), by bringing friends to Sunday School throughout the year.

Please continue to pray for our children throughout the summer so they may seek out Jesus by attending Vacation Bible school or by signing up for Rainbow Glacier Camp or simply by feeling called to pray to Jesus themselves.
—Lynette

The Harvest Principle: Expect God to Respond

by Rick Warren

If you're saying, "God, I'm looking to You as the only source of my supply; and when I have a need, I'm going to plant a seed," then you can expect God to send a harvest.

God will provide the harvest from the seed you planted not because you've worked yourself into a frenzy or psyched yourself up, but simply because of who God is. He's faithful, and He can be depended on. He will provide for your needs; he will fulfill His promises.

Now understand this: God's no vending machine. He's not a genie jumping to your every command and He's not your servant. But He is a loving father, who constantly proves the principles He established through His Word. He shows us people throughout the Bible who believe God and say, "I'm going to give when I don't have it, whether it is money, time, energy, ideas, or empathy."

The Bible says, "If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:11 NIV) and "If your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead?" (Luke 11:11 NLT)

No way! God loves His children and God is waiting to do in your life what you cannot imagine.

Presbytery News

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA - ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE SPRING 2009 MEETING

This is only a summary of the actions taken. A full description of the changes will be found in the minutes of this meeting.

The Presbytery...

Heard a report from the Pastor to the Presbytery, the Rev. Dr. David Dobler and the Presbytery Treasurer, Venus Zink, about the financial difficulties facing the Presbytery in the years to come.

Worshipped with services led by students of the Presbytery's Lay Pastor Program.

Elected the Rev. Bob Carter to fill a vacancy on the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry and the Rev. Tracee Hackel to fill a vacancy on the Presbytery's Nominations Committee.

Examined Elder Crystal Badgley of Haines and voted to Commission her as a Commissioned Lay Pastor beginning on June 1, 2009. Her Commission will last for two years.

Voted to appoint an Administrative Commission to investigate and determine whether a viable Presbyterian Congregation Church continues to exist in Hoonah, Alaska and to take appropriate action based upon its investigation. The individuals serving on the Commission were also elected. The Commission was given the power to act as the Session of the Hoonah Presbyterian Church.

Voted to rename the Lay Pastor Education Committee to the "Leadership Equipping Center". The Presbytery also voted to approve a new mission statement for the Committee.

Voted to approve a new policy on Sexual Misconduct and the procedures to be following to prevent Sexual Misconduct and to deal with it if it should occur.

Voted to approve a short term loan of \$20,000 to the Sitka Congregation to deal with some building maintenance issues at the church.

Approved a number of revisions to the Presbytery's By-Laws which will become effective January 1, 2010. Included among these changes were altering the membership of the General Council, reducing the size of the Committee on Ministry, transforming the Personnel and Staff Support Committee, the Finance Committee and the Presbytery Trustees into subcommittees of the General Council. The changes will also remove the Session Records, Bills & Overtures Committee, handing those responsibilities to the Stated Clerk. The Company of Pastors and Mission & Ministry groups were also removed from the By-Laws, but could, if desired by the churches, continue to exist.

Approved having the Presbytery Moderator appoint a search committee to find a nominee for Presbytery Stated Clerk. The Moderator appointed the Rev. Ron Horn, Elder Joyce Schultz and Elder Linda Miller to serve on this Committee.

Per a recommendation from the Presbytery's Personnel and Staff Support Committee, the Presbytery voted to recommend that when preparing the draft budget for 2010, that all three of the Presbytery's current part-time positions be maintained.

Voted to concur with Book of Order amendments 08-A, 08-C, 08-D, 08-E, 08-F, 08-G, 08-H, 08-I, 08-J and ecumenical statements 08-K, 08-L, 08-M and 08-N. The Presbytery voted to not concur with Book of Order amendment 08-B.

(Skagway has several members serving on committees at the Presbytery level: Ryan Mandeville – Personnel & Staff Support; John Jackson – Trustees; John Tronrud – Session Records, Bills & Overtures; Sheryl Dennis – Finance and General Council.)

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

Choir Practice 9:15 am
Morning Worship 10:00 am
**Fellowship following service
Evening Worship 7:00 pm
**beginning May 17th

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's

Fridays

Senior Lunch Noon
Fellowship Hall

Sundays

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

Dates to Remember:

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

Networking Dinners
May 13, 20, 27 Fellowship Hall

Welcome Back BBQ Potluck
Sunday, May 17th **following service

Deacons Meeting TBA

Session Meeting
Sunday, May 31st, 8 a.m.

Newsletter Deadline
Wednesday, June 3rd

Next Communion Observed
Sunday, June 7th

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



April Attendance

5th – 57
12th – 73
19th – 48
26th – 56

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.