

Phil's Thoughts

January is a time for looking backward and looking forward. We assess where we have been – what has gone well, where we can improve, what we want to keep in the new year, and what we want to let go of or change. More importantly, it is the occasion for looking ahead, planning for the future, casting a vision of where we want to go, and for committing to the journey that will take us there.

At church we do this examining and futuring via our **Annual Congregational Meeting**. This year, the meeting will be **Sunday, January 29** after worship (see official call on p. 6) and the substance of the meeting will entail **updating the visioning plan** we developed in 2014. The plan grew out of our annual meeting that year, and it produced four goal areas that have guided our church's ministry for the past three years:

- *Be a welcoming church that values, honors, and learns from diversity*
- *Seek opportunities to serve and lead, allowing the church and church members to grow and be Christ in our church, community and state (especially Southeast Alaska), the United States and the world.*
- *Sustain a stable church into the future through facility*

maintenance and improvement, staffing decisions and stewardship of our resources.

- *Help each other to learn, grow in understanding and wisdom, and deepen our relationships with God and each other*

Our Church Council reviews these goals at its monthly meetings to assure that the visioning we did serves as a living document directs our work rather than remaining a report gathering dust on a shelf. Among the many programs, projects and initiatives we have undertaken that reflect our goals are:

- becoming and More Light/Reconciling congregation to make explicit our welcome to the LGBTQ community;
- establishing a Committee on Community Opportunities that oversees our growing initiatives in community service and social justice advocacy;
- reroofing the entire church (and raising the money to pay for it!) so that our building continues to serve the congregation and the Juneau community; and
- adopting a lectionary based curriculum for all ages that aligns with our weekly worship themes so that we are learning and growing together as a community of God's

people.

Church Council has discussed whether it is time for another visioning retreat; the answer is "sort of"! We have decided that our 4 goal areas continue to serve us well but that it is time to refurbish them and to add new strategies for implementing them. To that end, the bulk of our **Annual Congregational Meeting agenda** will be devoted to a **"mini-visioning" session**. Utilizing again the "world café," rotating small group discus-

continued on p. 3



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Youth News</i>	2
<i>Epiphany and Church Undecorating</i>	3
<i>Small Group Dinners</i>	3
<i>New Members</i>	4
<i>2016 - Celebrating Congregational Generosity</i>	5
<i>Congregational Meeting</i>	6
<i>Book Study</i>	7

Youth News

Rev. Melissa Engel, director of the Cooperative Youth Group, is on maternity leave! On December 16, Sophia Neoma Engel was born! Sophia, Melissa and Michael are doing well—congratulations! If you would like to provide a meal for the family during the next few weeks, please contact Douglas Community United Methodist, (907) 364-2408.

During Melissa's leave, April Rezendes and Bob Coghill will be providing leadership for the youth group. Feel free to contact **April** with any questions, thoughts etc..., **860-917-4451** or barefeet4@gmail.com

Through it all, youth group continues! Here the schedule:

(All events at NLUC in the youth room)

Sun. Jan 1 - No Youth Group Happy New Year!

Sun. Jan 8 - 5:15-7:15 PM

We will have guest speakers from NAMI Juneau talking to us about mental illness and mental wellness. We will also be talking about our plans for the new year.

Sun. Jan 15 - 5:15-7:15 PM

Martin Luther King Day service opportunity

Sun. Jan 22 - 5:15-7:15 PM

Sun. Jan 29 - 5:15-7:15 PM

TBA When available from the library, the group will view the "Empty Chair" documentary.

Point Foundation Scholarship

The Point Foundation is the nation's largest scholarship-granting organization for LGBTQ students of merit. The application period for 2017-2018 higher education scholarships opened November 1 and remains open until January 30, 2017.

All members of the #LGBTQ community can apply to be a @PointFoundation scholar! Apply at <https://www.pointfoundation.org/point-apply/apply-now>.

This youth group is made up of young people from six faith communities around Juneau and Douglas, including Douglas Community United Methodist Church, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Northern Light United Church, Juneau Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, St. Brendan's Episcopal Church, and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. We are also made up of young people who are from the greater community and include some who are not religiously affiliated. We live out an ethic of love and respect, accept people for who they are, and most of all: we love to have fun!

THIS YOUTH GROUP IS MADE
UP OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM
SIX FAITH COMMUNITIES
AROUND JUNEAU AND
DOUGLAS, INCLUDING
DOUGLAS COMMUNITY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
ALDERSGATE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH,
NORTHERN LIGHT UNITED
CHURCH, JUNEAU UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP,
ST. BRENDAN'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH, AND HOLY TRINITY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Join a Small Group Dinner Gathering

Small group meal gatherings are being planned and scheduled and we hope you will participate! These are get-togethers for 6 – 8 people usually in homes, and their purpose is fellowship - to help us know each other better. Hosts usually plan a meal and

participants who can often bring something to contribute – it is all flexible; the goal is strengthen the bonds of community! If you would like to host a meal or attend one, please contact the church office, nluc@ak.net, 586-3131,

or sign up on the sheet on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board **by January 15**. Andi Story will be coordinating the gatherings. If you have questions or need more information, you may contact her at andimike@ak.net, or 907-723-4198.

HOSTS USUALLY PLAN A MEAL AND PARTICIPANTS WHO CAN OFTEN BRING SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE – IT IS ALL FLEXIBLE; THE GOAL IS STRENGTHEN THE BONDS OF COMMUNITY!

Phil's Thoughts continued

sion format, we will revisit our goals and develop new specifics for **diversity, service, stewardship of resources, and learning and growth**. We need your input and look forward to your participation on January 29!

To prepare us to make good use of our time, **worship** on January 8, 15, and 22 will feature “visioning moments” that will review our goal areas. On **January 8**, Freda Westman will speak about welcoming and diversity; on **January 15**, Nancy Lehnhart will address community service and

outreach, and on **January 22**, Natalie Norberg will reflect on stewardship and facility use.

The theme of worship on **January 29** will be our fourth goal of learning, growing, and deepening relationships; it will include time for worshippers to share their ideas and suggestions. Then after worship during our annual meeting, small groups will brainstorm about our other three goals of diversity, service, and stewardship. What new initiatives will we undertake in the years ahead? What new pro-

grams will we begin? What new ways will we serve? How will we organize for most effective action? How will we learn, grow and connect more deeply with God and each other? How do *you* want to be involved? Mark your calendars for January 29. You are important part of the vision! I look forward to your participation. And, if you can't be with us, send me a note at nlucpas-tor@ak.net so that your ideas can be included in the mix. Thanks be to God for this ministry we share.

New Members Welcomed

ON DECEMBER 11,
WE RECEIVED THREE
NEW MEMBERS INTO
THE LIFE OF OUR
CHURCH, MARTHA
MALLOT, MICHELE
THOMPSON, AND
LORI POSEY.

On December 11, we received three new members into the life of our church, **Martha Mallot**, **Michele Thompson**, and **Lori Posey**. They share the following by way of introduction:

Martha Mallot and her son Dyson are from Yakutat, Alaska. Martha grew up going to Yakutat Presbyterian Church and was confirmed when she was 14. In 2012, Martha was ordained as an ruling Elder in the Yakutat church. Dyson was baptized there in 2011 and

spent his early years going to the church. Martha and Dyson now reside in Juneau and fell very blessed to have been welcomed with open arms to their new church family.

Michele writes: "I'm Michele Thompson. I am a teacher at Juneau-Douglas High School. I moved to Juneau in 2006, and have lived in Alaska for over 20 years. I am happy to be a new member of the Northern Light United congregation and am looking forward to becoming more involved

in church life."

We also welcome back longtime member Lori Posey has returned to Juneau and reactivated her membership after living in Georgia for several years.

New members will be received again in the coming weeks. If you wish to join or want more info about church membership, please contact Phil, nlucpastor@ak.net, 586-3131.

Christmas Offering Received

OFFERING RECEIPTS
TO DATE ARE
\$3,011.89 AND
ADDITIONAL
DONATIONS ARE
WELCOME. CHECKS
MAY BE MADE TO
NLUC WITH
"CHRISTMAS
OFFERING" IN THE
MEMO LINE.

At the Christmas Eve service we received a special offering for two local housing initiatives, Housing First and Family Promise. **Housing First** will provide **long** term accommodations for over 30 people who are part the highly vulnerable chronic homeless population who are chemically dependent and often deal with mental health challenges. Housing First is scheduled to open in May.

Family Promise, a national effort that operates in 160 communities across the country, offers temporary shelter for homeless families; the Juneau affiliate hopes to begin operation in 2017. Evening housing will be provided on a rotating basis in the buildings of Juneau congregations (our church will be one of the host congregations.) Volunteers will serve dinner and room will be provided with cots and a place

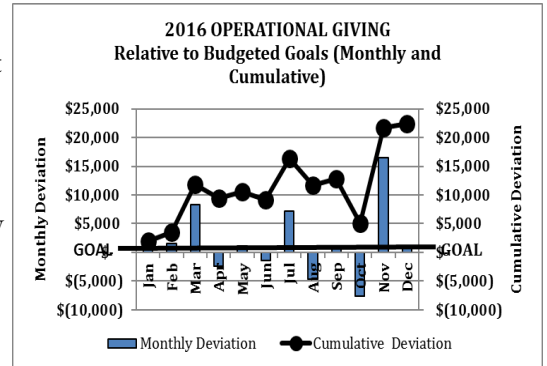
for storage of personal belongings. Three or four families (up to 15 individuals) will be housed at any given time.

Offering receipts to date are \$3,011.89 and additional donations are welcome. Checks may be made to NLUC with "Christmas Offering" in the memo line.

2016: A YEAR FOR CELEBRATING CONGREGATIONAL GENEROSITY!

Even though there are still four days left in 2016, it is already apparent that the year was one of generous operational giving by the congregation. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR AMAZING GENEROSITY!

Operational giving is the money given to Northern Light to support its day-to-day expenses, such as paying for our staff and buildings as well as programs carried out by Northern Light.



During December congregational giving for operations was almost \$800 greater than the budget anticipated it to be. That, combined with the cumulative over-budget giving of the congregation in various earlier months of the year, means that, for the year as a whole: our giving is significantly over-budget. In fact, compared to the 2016 budget, congregational giving is over \$22,000 above budget – an amazing amount.

Your generosity is a thing to celebrate. It means that we will be able to fund all the endeavors we had planned for this year and can begin 2017 confidently knowing that our future plans will not lack in funding.

Throughout the year Northern Lighters also gives significant amounts of money for special, designated causes that are not part of our operational expenses. That also was the case in December. Congregational members contributed almost \$6,000 for the following designated causes: the Heifer Project, the Glory Hole, Housing First, and the Lemon-Creek Prison Ministry. Thank You! Again.!

Living Gift Market

Thanks to all who supported our Sunday School's Living Gift Market on Sunday, December 11. The children and youth raised nearly \$2,500 for Heifer International, an ecumenical organization with sustainable agriculture projects in over 50

countries. NLUC's support will help send water buffalo, llamas, goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits, geese, many flocks of chicks, and even trees to agricultural families, providing them with food and sources of income for the future. If you missed the

gift market, you can still participate by placing your gift in the offering plate or sending it to the church office. Write "Heifer International" in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity. It makes a difference!

THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH RAISED NEARLY \$2,500 FOR HEIFER INTERNATIONAL, AN ECUMENICAL ORGANIZATION WITH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROJECTS IN OVER 50 COUNTRIES.

Official Call - Annual Congregational Meeting

ALL MEMBERS AND
FRIENDS ARE
INVITED AND
ENCOURAGED TO
ATTEND!

The Annual Meeting of Northern Light United Church will be **Sunday, January 29** following our 11 a.m. worship service. All members and friends are invited *and* encouraged to attend! The bulk of the meeting will be a “mini-visioning” session that will update the goals that guide our congregation’s ministry (see Phil’s column on p. 1). You are also invited to bring something for the **potluck lunch** that will be served as part of the meeting. We are encouraging simple dishes that don’t require a lot of last minute preparation so that all can participate fully in the meeting. At the meeting we will receive the 2017 budget and written reports from congregational entities, and we will elect officers and committee members for the coming year. The meeting will also include video greetings from Corey Schlosser-Hall, Executive Presbyterian of our presbytery (Presbytery of the Northwest Coast). In preparation for the meeting, “visioning moments” about our church goals will be presented during our January worship services, and written reports can be obtained in advance beginning on January 15. Pick up a copy at church, request a digital version via email, nluc@ak.net, or download from the church website, www.northernlightchurch.org.

Dinner at the Glory Hole

ONE OF THE ONGOING
WAYS NORTHERN
LIGHT SHARES AT THE
GLORY HOLE,
JUNEAU’S EMERGENCY
SHELTER AND SOUP
KITCHEN, IS PROVIDING
THE EVENING MEAL ON
THE THIRD AND
FOURTH TUESDAYS OF
EACH MONTH.

One of the ongoing ways Northern Light shares at the Glory Hole, Juneau’s emergency shelter and soup kitchen, is **providing the evening meal** on the **third and fourth Tuesdays** of each month. The third Tuesday menu is chili and spaghetti is served on the fourth Tuesday. Many members and friends participate in this effort by shopping for food, donating funds, cooking, serving the meals, and sharing fellowship with Glory Hole patrons.

Here’s how it works:
The Sunday before each

meal, a signup sheet for food, cooks and servers is posted on the church information bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Food marked “Glory Hole” can be left in the church kitchen/ refrigerator or taken to the Glory Hole kitchen by 3:30 p.m. the day of the meal (food costs can be a donation or reimbursed by the church office).

The **cooking crew** (usually three to five folks) **begins preparation at the Glory Hole at 4:00 p.m.** and **Dinner is served at 6:00.** The servers can then share the

meal with others eating at the Glory Hole. Many in our congregation provide faithful help and are always eager to share this experience with new volunteers. There is always someone there who has done it before and knows the ropes.

Thanks to the many who participate in this important ministry of food and fellowship! **If you would like to be part of this ministry you are encouraged to sign up on the bulletin board or contact the church office, nluc@ak.net, 586-3131.**

Livestream and Audio Help Sought for Worship Services

In 2017, our children and youth classes will continue to use the *Feasting on the Word* lectionary based curriculum and coincides with our Sunday worship themes. In March, the Adult Bible class will using the adult version of the curriculum as well.

The elementary class continues during the latter part of the 11 a.m. worship time. **Middle School and High School classes will resume January 8 at 10 a.m.** The **adult Bible class** will start back up on **January 15 at 10** and will spend two weeks finishing its study of Luke's gospel. On January 29 it will begin a brief study of Philippians before switching to the lectionary based study.

Book Study on Peaceful Communication Coming Soon

How do we talk effectively and compassionately about controversial issues? How do we encourage fruitful dialog among those with differing opinions and perspectives? How do we "be church" amid a divided world? If you wrestle with questions such as these, plan to join us for a Committee on Committee Opportunities sponsored

study of Marshall Rosenberg's book *Speak Peace in a Violent World*. Rosenberg is the initiator of the Nonviolent Communication movement, and *Speak Peace* provides a concise and practical introduction to his approach. Psychology professor and friend of our church, Ray Pastorino, will lead the study. Dates and times for the book

discussion have not been finalized. Watch for updates soon on the church website, Facebook page, in all church emails and weekly worship announcements.

HOW DO WE
ENCOURAGE
FRUITFUL DIALOG
AMONG THOSE
WITH DIFFERING
OPINIONS AND
PERSPECTIVES?

Recycling Reminder

Remember, the church has a large gray cart with blue lid in the Fellowship Hall for recycle items. PLEASE recycle only those items listed on the top of the cart and do not put recyclables with food still on it.

Deacons at Your Service

As the days get colder and the nights longer, we often think more about how we can help our neighbors in need. The Deacons Fund, made up of gifts from congregation members and others, is a resource for people in Juneau who

need emergency help with things like rent, utilities, baby needs (diapers, formula), medication, and other basic needs. If you or someone you know needs financial assistance with these sorts of essentials, call the church office to request assistance or

for more information.

This is a great way to share your time and help lift up someone who, due to illness, age, disability, or other reason, is limited to their home or other facility.

Thanks!!

Thank yous

Many people and groups are involved in making sure things happen at NLUC. Each month we would like to recognize some of those individuals and groups for their special services. Special thanks to:

*those who served as Liturgists: Betsy Brenneman, Peggy Sue Wright, Tom Perkins, Margaret MacKinnon, June Degnan

*those who served as Greeters/ushers: Martha & Dyson Mallott, Marianne Mills, Katherine Hope, Marie, Lijo & Jaz Wilson, Margaret MacKinnon

*Tom Perkins, Don & Jan Kussart, Carol Barril, Susan Bus, Peggy Metcalf and Madeleine LeFebvre who assembled the December newsletter

*Refreshment Hosts: Karen Dillon, Carol Barril, Nico & Susan Bus, Denise Carroll, Margaret Pugh

*Those who provided flowers: Kate Burkhart, Eve Reckley

*Marianne Mills, Tom Perkins, April Rezendes, John Pugh, Pat Gorman, Jan and Don Kussart, Margaret MacKinnon, Carol Barril, Karen Dillon Jim Alter, and Mary Borthwick for their help in counting and recording financial gifts received by Northern Light.

*ANS Camp 70 and members and friends of Northern Light who gave poinsettias given in honor or memory of loved ones that graced our chancel during Christmas.

*All who provided special music during the Christmas season

*All who participated in our spontaneous Christmas pageant on Christmas Day.

If you have a suggestion for a thank you, call Christina at the church office, 586-3131 or e-mail her at nluc@ak.net.

YES, Youth Exchange & Study

One of the best things my taxes buy is the Peace Making program that brings young people from the Muslim world to our country, the initiative of Senator Dick Lugar, Rep, and Ted Kennedy, Dem, right after 9/11. This is the 6th year Juneau People for Peace and Justice has brought YES students to Juneau and they are our 17th, 18th and 19th students.

Ege Tezcan from Istanbul, Turkey is at home with Laura, John and Richard Doogan; therefore we get to see a lot of him at Northern Light. Ege goes to JDHS.

Dana Sabbahi, from Ramallah in Palestine's West Bank, lives with Jim and Janice Sheufelt and their two daughters. Dana goes to TMHS.

Mahmoud Abu Aisha from Gaza, Palestine has become a part of the Bishop family, father Nathan, mother Amanda and brother, Adam. Mahmoud goes to TMHS too.

Dana, Mahmoud and Ege have already presented twice in the community. They have been introduced to the Borough Assembly and have been on UAS Campus with the university Exchange Stu-

dents.

I'm hoping they will teach a class for those of us eager to learn about their country's history and the challenges today. If you are interested in participating please let me know in person or call me at 789-9229. In January, I'll be looking for host families for the 2017-2018 school year.

These young people, who bring the world to us, are one of the joys of my life.

Judith Maier

ONE OF THE BEST THINGS MY TAXES BUY IS THE PEACE MAKING PROGRAM THAT BRINGS YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE MUSLIM WORLD TO OUR COUNTRY, THE INITIATIVE OF SENATOR DICK LUGAR, REP, AND TED KENNEDY, DEM, RIGHT AFTER 9/11.



Birthdays

1	Carol Brady	16	Karen Peska	25	Aaron Ferguson
2	Kris McCune	17	Rogelio Murray Shapland	29	Margaret MacKinnon
4	Chris Fredell			29	Emily Sheakley
6	Yanakeen See	19	Jacque Farnsworth	30	Gail Coenraad
9	George Reifenstein		Thomas Beierly		Jazmine Wilson
10	Debbie Hull	22	Tom Perkins	31	Roselina Wilson
11	Jenny Pursell		Grace Standerwick		
13	Brian Vander Naald	24	Martha Murray		

Did you know.....

- There is a **lockbox** near the A Street entrance that contains a church entrance key. Those who need to **access the building after hours** may **contact the church office** to ask about the lockbox code
- **On Sundays**, in addition to our main parking lot west of the church, **parking is available in the playground lot** at 12th and A. Enter off the alley between 11th & 12th.
- **During the worship service**, anyone who has to leave the sanctuary to tend to a young one, etc. is welcome to go to **Room 9**, just off the Fellowship Hall, **where the service is live streamed**.
- **Donations of socks, warm mittens and hats** for Glory Hole and Front Street Health Center patrons may be placed in the **Sox Box** in the **Fellowship Hall**



Epiphany and Christmas Church Undecorating January 8

On Sunday, January 8, we will commemorate the festival of Epiphany when the Magi, or Wise Men, arrive to bring gifts and pay homage to Jesus. Christmas celebrates the birth; Epiphany asks, what does this birth mean? Come join us for worship on January 8 at 11 a.m. as we explore the meaning of Christmas for our lives. After worship, we will un-decorate the church. We conclude the Christmas season and enter ordinary time. All are welcome to help!

The Camels are coming, hurrah, hurrah!

The magi and camels will process at the beginning of worship on January 8! If you would like to be part of this, contact the church office.

JANUARY 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! 11 Worship	2 OFFICE CLOSED - HAPPY NEW YEAR!	3	4 12 ACOA 5 Haven House 5:15 JPPJ 5:30 Chancel Choir	5 10 Text Study	6 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons 3:30 Cub Scouts	7 9 Bartlett Dads
8 10 Youth Ed. 11 Worship & Child Ed. Christmas Undecorating - p. 10 5:15 Youth Group	9 11 LifeRing 12 Bartlett Toddlers	10 12 Interfaith Council 3 Violin Lessons	11 12 ACOA 5:15 JPPJ 5:30 Chancel Choir	12 10 Weekend Food Bags 10 Text Study 5 Church Council	13 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons 3:30 Cub Scouts	14 BBBS Pancake Breakfast 2 Memorial Service
15 10 Youth & Adult Ed 11 Worship & Child Ed. 5:15 Youth Group	16 Office Closed - MLK Day 11 LifeRing 12 Bartlett Toddlers 5 Staff Parish Relations Comm.	17 3 Violin Lessons	18 12 ACOA 5 Haven House 5:15 JPPJ 5:30 Chancel Choir	19 10 Weekend Food Bags 10 Text Study 5:30 Our Time	20 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons 3:30 Cub Scouts	21
22 10 Youth & Adult Ed 11 Worship & Child Ed. Deacons 5:15 Youth Group	23 11 LifeRing 12 Bartlett Toddlers	24 3 Violin Lessons	25 12 ACOA 5:15 JPPJ 5:30 Chancel Choir	26 10 Weekend Food Bags 10 Text Study	27 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons 3:30 Cub Scouts	28
29 10 Youth & Adult Ed 11 Worship & Child Ed. Annual Meeting - p. 1 & 6 5:15 Youth Group	30 11 LifeRing 12 Bartlett Toddlers	31 Newsletter Deadline 3 Violin Lessons				

Northern Light United Church
400 West Eleventh Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1512

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JUNEAU, AK
PERMIT NO. 13



Downtown at 11th and 'A' Street

T: (907) 586-3131

Email: nluc@ak.net

Pastor: Rev. Phil Campbell

E-mail: nlucpastor@ak.net

Youth Director: Rev. Melissa Engel

E-mail: pastor.engel.ak@gmail.com

Sunday Services streamed at

<http://livestream.com/nluchurchjuneau>

Newsletters and Juneau Empire articles
also can be found on our website:

northernlightchurch.org or you can find us on face book.



Sunday Worship Schedule

Adult, Middle, & High School classes at 10

Worship and Pre-K - Elementary Ed. at 11

*No matter who you are,
no matter where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*

*The mission of our church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ,
through God-centered worship and people-centered ministry.*