

Phil's Thoughts

In his last poetic work, "Four Quartets," writer T. S. Eliot offers a critique of popular culture that too often inundates us with new experiences, but discourages us from taking the time to slow down and think about their significance. He laments, "We had the experience, but missed the meaning." For those of us fortunate to have varied and wondrous encounters with life, the experiences are great, but Eliot's rumination reminds us that their value is immeasurably enhanced when we explore the meanings of what we do.

I often return to Eliot's musings at the New Year as I recall the events and encounters of the past twelve months. My experiences in the past year include embracing two new identities – grandparent and cancer survivor. Experiences that have accompanied these identities are a trip to Minnesota for our granddaughter Lillian's baptism, and watching her change and grow weekly via pictures and Skype sessions with her and her parents on the one hand, and medical appointments, tests, and procedures on the other. The meanings of my grandpa experiences are love of family, gratitude for and delight in the gifts of each new day, and hope for a peace-filled and

compassionate future for Lillian and for all people. The meanings of my medical follow up are appreciation for every day of life, gratitude for the skill of medical professionals, deepened awareness of my mortality, and enlarged empathy for those who deal with much larger challenges than those I face.

What about you? What experiences have you had, and what do they mean for you?

In like manner, we can reflect on the meanings of our church experiences. Among the things we did in 2015 are: raising \$50,000 to support the Front Street Community Health Center; expanding the weekend food program for Riverbend Elementary students; and declaring our church a More Light/Reconciling congregation. Through these experiences we fund health care for neighbors who are homeless, provide food for hungry children, and support LGBTQ brothers and sisters who too often have been rejected by churches. Our experiences mean that we take seriously our identity as a place of hospitality, hope and healing. They demonstrate our commitment to widening our welcome for all people.

What experiences would you add to our church list? What

are their meanings for you?

A primary purpose of religious practice is to imbue our experiences with meaning. Through worship, study, fellowship and service, we look at life through God's eyes, and our existence is greatly enriched. I look forward to sharing with you the experiences and meanings that await us in the New Year.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Adult Bible Study Starts January 10</i>	2
<i>Looking ahead - Ash Wednesday and Lent</i>	3
<i>Annual Meeting Slated for January 31</i>	4
<i>Christmas Offering Received</i>	4
<i>Thanks for Exceeding 2015 Fiscal Goal!</i>	6

Adult Bible Class Starts New Study January 10

The Adult Bible Class will resume meeting on Sunday, January 10 at 10 a.m. The class will begin a study of the Gospel of Luke and will use an interpretive commentary by Fred B. Craddock as a guide. Copies of Craddock's book are available in the church office. Long time participants and new attendees are always welcome. Join us as we explore the meaning of Luke's gospel, both in its original context, and for our lives today.

Inside Passage Waterkeeper

Lauren and Carl Heine invite those interested to the Juneau debut of the film "We Eat Fish!" The film addresses questions such as: **How much fish do Alaskans eat?** And why does that matter to our clean water?

Learn about this emerging issue and help support the Inside Passage Waterkeeper's* campaign to keep Alaska's fish and water clean and healthy while enjoying some light snacks and the company of good friends.

When: Thursday, January 7th at 7pm

Where: The home of Lauren and Carl Heine, 2986 Foster Ave

What: "We Eat Fish!" film debut, discussion and fundraiser

RSVP emily@seacc.org or call (907) 586-6942.

Can't make it but would like to support the Inside Passage Waterkeeper? You can learn more about the [We Eat Fish! campaign](#) and [donate online](#).

** The Inside Passage Waterkeeper was launched by the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council in 2014 with the mission of keeping Alaska's clean water clean. As one of the 200-plus waterkeepers around the world, we are the local voice of a global movement to keep our waters fishable, drinkable, and swimmable.*

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.

Looking ahead - Ash Wednesday and Lent

Easter is early in 2016; it is March 27, and this means that the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday, is February 10. We will have a brief service of

ashes that evening, and we will begin a **Lenten Study** the following week. The study will be on **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.** (after choir) and will

commence February 17.

Look for an announcement soon about the book we will use as the basis of our discussion.

Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD)- Voter Registration (VR)

Initiative for Alaska Ballot Vote – 2016

This INITIATIVE to be placed on the 2016 Ballot will provide valuable services for all Alaska citizens in the PFD Program and for all Alaskans who are eligible to vote and need to register or update their information to vote.

Citizens can “opt out” (choose not to register to vote) if they wish. Their PFD is still intact and in no way will be changed or removed.

It is estimated that 70,000 Alaskans can be added to the registered voters of Alaska with this straight forward and common sense approach to combining the PFD and Voter Registration information.

Support for this approach throughout Alaska includes the ACLU, AFL/CIO, Alaska Conservation Voters, Alaska Federation of Natives, ANSCA Regional Association (with affiliated Native Corporations), Get Out the Native Vote, Great Alaska Schools, and the League of Women Voters of Alaska.

A representative of the League of Women Voters will be present after worship on January 3 to answer questions and to secure signatures of those wishing to sign the initiative to place this issue before Alaska’s voters in 2016. “Participatory Democracy” is waiting for us to move forward for Alaska. Thank you for this consideration.

Carolyn V Brown / George W Brown (League of Women Voters)

364-2726 cvbrown1937@yahoo.com

Building Access

A lockbox has been installed near the A Street entrance that contains a church entrance key. Those who need to access the building for church meetings or other scheduled uses after business hours may contact the church office to obtain the lockbox code.

Annual Meeting slated for January 31

All are invited to the annual congregational meeting, Sunday, January 31 after worship. Northwest Coast Presbytery Exec. Corey Schlosser Hall will preside at the meeting that will include a **pot-luck lunch**. In preparation for the meeting, you

are invited to obtain the written reports of our life and ministry in 2015. They will be available in print or via email starting Jan. 13. To get your copy, contact the church office, nluc@ak.net, 586-3131. At the meeting, we will elect officers and receive

the 2016 budget. Committees and other groups will offer highlights of the past year's accomplishments and help us look forward to new ministry opportunities in the New Year. Please join us!

Christmas Offering Received

At the Christmas Eve service we received a special offering for our local and global neighbors. One half of the offering is for Juneau's Front Street Community Health Center, and the Glory Hole. The other half supports the refugee resettlement program of Church World Service, the national, ecumenical organization with which our denominations work. Offering receipts to date are \$6044 . 50% will be sent to Church World Service, 25% to Front Street, and 25% to the Glory Hole. In addition, we have received a \$7000 designated

gift for Refugee Resettlement that will also go to Church World Service.

The Front Street Health Center provides essential medical services in Juneau for homeless persons and others with in our community with limited income. The Glory Hole offers food and shelter for neighbors who otherwise would have neither.

Church World Service coordinates refugee resettlement at home as well as providing aid to those waiting in refugee camps abroad.

Officials of both the United Methodist and

Presbyterian denominations have added their voices to the chorus of interfaith leaders who are calling upon our government to allow Syrian refugees into the United States as the flee the war in their country. Church World Service coordinates refugee resettlement at home as well as providing aid to those waiting in refugee camps abroad.

Thanks to all who have given. Donations are still welcome. You can contribute online or by check payable to NLUC with "Christmas Offering" in the memo line.

Thanks for Exceeding 2015 Fiscal Goal!

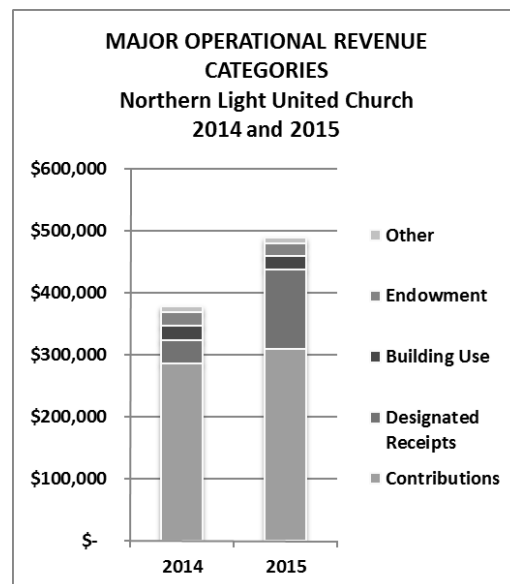
Congregational giving in support of Northern Light’s operational budget during December was excellent. It exceeded the amount budgeted for the month by over \$8300. Thanks to all who have helped fund our operational budget during 2015! As a result of the congregation’s generosity during December, the year-to-date total operational giving switched from \$3100 under budget at the start of the month to \$5200 over budget a few days before the end of the month.

2015’s giving patterns demonstrate the congregation’s commitment of support to a multitude of specific programs and

endeavors that reach well beyond the “walls” of Northern Light. One category of the congregation’s support is for specific programs – often existing outside Northern Light but still supported by the congregation through Northern Light. In the accompanying graph this category of giving is labeled “Designated Receipts”

Comparing the operational revenue for last year to this year illustrates that the categories which are driven by the congregation’s gifts are those that are growing. The 8% growth in general fund contributions is an impressive change.

Totally unprecedented is the increase by over 3 times in “Designated Giving”. The dollar change amounts to roughly a \$90,000 increase. Although there are about 20 specific programs receiving designated gifts from the congregation this year, the largest recipients include: the Front Street Community Health Clinic; refugee support; Northern Light peace programs; our cooperative youth program; the Weekend Food Program; the Glory Hole; the Heifer Project; the Deacons Fund; the Imagine-No-Malaria campaign; and assistance to victims of natural disasters.





Birthdays

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

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: Kelly Henriksen, Tom Perkins, Brandy Scott, Kristy Germain

*those who served as Greeters/ushers: Janet Kussart, Carol Barril, Eric and Brandy Scott, Marie Beierly, Linda Miller, Melody Millard

*Tom Perkins, Jean Overstreet, Alan Akiyama, and Don and Jan Kussart who assembled the November newsletter

*Those who were refreshment hosts: Morleys, Deacons, Judy Knight, Andi Story, Esther Millea

*Those who provided flowers: Esther Millea and everyone who bought a poinsettia for Christmas Eve

*Those who served as Acolytes: Ferguson Paris-Wheeler, Madelyn and Dori Germain, Dominique Morley

*Hats off to Melody Millard who spread gravel over a very slippery and icy parking lot prior to the Cooperative Church Council's Advent Lunch. Many thanks to soup makers Peggy Metcalf and Mary Borthwick and to Judy Knight for coordinating the luncheon. And thanks to many who help with set-up and clean-up.

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.

JANUARY 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Happy New Year!	2 9 Bartlett Dads
3 10 Christian Education 11 Worship	4 11 Life Ring 1 Bartlett Toddlers 3:30 Cub Scouts 6 ANS Camp 70	5 3 Violin Lessons 5:30 Climate Change	6 12 ACOA 5:30 Chancel Choir	7 9:30 Lectionary Study 10 Weekend Food Bags	8 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons 4 Heartstrings	9
10 10 Christian Education 11 Worship	11 11 Life Ring 1 Bartlett Toddlers 3:30 Cub Scouts 6:30 Haven House	12 3 Violin Lessons	13 12 ACOA 5:30 Chancel Choir 7 Mudrooms	14 9:30 Lectionary Study 10 Weekend Food Bags 5 Council	15 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons 4 Heartstrings	16 11 BBBS Pancake Breakfast
17 10 Christian Education 11 Worship	18 11 Life Ring 1 Bartlett Toddlers 3:30 Cub Scouts 5:30 SPRC	19 3 Violin Lessons 5:30 Climate Change	20 12 ACOA 5:30 Chancel Choir	21 9:30 Lectionary Study 10 Weekend Food Bags 5:15 Glory Hole Board	22 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons 4 Heartstrings	23
24 10 Christian Education 11 Worship	25 11 Life Ring 1 Bartlett Toddlers 3:30 Cub Scouts	26 3 Violin Lessons	27 12 ACOA 5:30 Chancel Choir	28 9:30 Lectionary Study 10 Weekend Food Bags	29 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons 4 Heartstrings	30
31 10 Christian Education 11 Worship Annual Meeting - p. 4						

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: Melissa Engel

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

Sunday Services streamed at

<http://livestream.com/nluchurchjuneau>

Sermons, newsletters and Juneau Empire articles also can be found on our website:

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



Weekly Sunday Schedule

Christian Education 10:00

Worship 11:00

No matter who you are,

no matter where you are on life's journey,

you are welcome here.