

Phil's Thoughts

It has been wonderful to be back among you after my surgery. I am grateful to have been present for church's 40th Anniversary Celebration and for the Advent and Christmas seasons. During our time away, and since our return, Teresa and I have been buoyed by your kindness and care. Thank you! I now look forward to the New Year together. An important early gathering is the annual congregational meeting on January 11 after worship. I hope those in Juneau will be able to join us for this important time to reflect on the significance of the past year, and more importantly, imagine possibilities for the year ahead.

Even as my strength builds and excitement for our ministry grows, I also need to share with you unwanted news that January also brings. In my November column, I admitted that I was tired of asking for money. This month I confess that I am wearied by talking about my health, but I believe it is important to keep you updated. The test that confirmed my aortic aneurysm also revealed a mass in my left kidney. I have subsequently learned that it is malignant and that I will need surgery to remove the can-

cer. Teresa and I will return to Denver where I'm scheduled for the procedure on Jan. 29, and it will be about four weeks before I will be able to travel back to Juneau. The good news is that the cancer is contained and that surgery should remove it completely. The prognosis is excellent for a full recovery.

Unlike in November, we have a few weeks to plan for my time away. I have been working with the Church Council and Staff Parish Relations Committee to put things in place. I anticipate missing Sundays in February. Paul Beran will be available for pastoral needs, and will preach and preside at communion on February 1. Former Northern Light pastor, Lew Rooker, will be our guest preacher on February 15, and we hope that our Presbytery Exec, Corey Schlosser Hall, will be here for one of the other Sundays. Church leadership will keep everyone informed as additional details emerge.

Through it all, I am grateful for God's abiding care and for the fellowship of church, family and friends that knows no bounds. Thanks be to God for this ministry we share.



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

Youth Corner

Happy New Year to all!

The young people in the youth group are as busy as ever! My prayer is that each and every young person takes some time to rest each day. Just take half an hour and do something you love. It can be the same time every day, or you can change it up. Find that time to be you.

IN OUR EVER
GROWING YOUTH
GROUP, WE HAVE
BEEN RAISING
MONEY TO DONATE
A PROSTHETIC LIMB
TO A CHILD WHO
LOST THEIRS ON A
JOURNEY

In our ever growing youth group, we have been raising money to donate a prosthetic limb to a child who lost theirs on their journey from Central America to the U.S. to escape insecurity and poverty. So far, we have done an Advent fundraiser with Aldersgate and have summoned our empathy for thirty minutes each at the Lock-In after we spun the Twister spinner that decided which limb we had to give up. Both of these fundraisers have been a

blast, but we are not finished raising the \$2,000 to give a limb to a child in need! If you have it in your heart to give to this youth mission (that the young people have chosen), you will have a chance in the upcoming months! Thanks to those who have given so far! :-)

When we haven't been playing games like "Teredactyl!" and ping pong, the youth group has been having discussions about forgiveness and Ubuntu. We will be starting to talk about reconciliation next! Also, we will be making prayer flags, so please contact me at mengel@iliff.edu and let me know if you would like prayer flags at your house. Thanks!

Many blessings to a wonderful month in a new year!

Melissa

Youth Ministry

Cooperative

Jan-Feb 2015 Schedule

(subject to changes)

January 4—Douglas Community United Methodist 5:15-7:17 PM

January 11—Holy Trinity Episcopal 5:15-7:17 PM

January 18—Aldersgate United Methodist 5:15-7:17 PM

January 19—Martin Luther King Day: DAY OF SERVICE

January 25—Northern Light United 5:15-7:17 PM

(Melissa gone: Jan 30-31)

February 1—Douglas Community United Methodist 5:15-7:17 PM

Annual Meeting Slated for Jan. 11

All are invited to the annual congregational meeting, Sunday, January 11 after worship. Alaska United Methodist Conference superintendent Carlo Rapanut will be our guest preacher in worship that morning and will preside at the meeting that will include a **potluck lunch**. In preparation for the meeting, you are invited to obtain the written reports of our life and ministry in 2014. They are available in print or via email. To get your copy, contact the church office, 586-3131, nluc@ak.net. At the meeting, we will elect officers, receive the 2015 budget, and reflect on the important work we have done in the past year.

Diana Butler Bass to speak in Anchorage

Dr. Diana Butler Bass, one of the leading commentators on religion and spirituality in the United States, will be in Anchorage, **January 30, 31** for a two day learning event sponsored by the Alaska United Methodist Conference. Dr. Bass has authored 8 books including her most recent: *Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening*. The Conference is waiving the registration fee for all participants in United Methodist churches including those of us from Northern Light! The program will begin with a Friday afternoon workshop from 12:30 – 5, followed by a public lecture at 7. The gathering will conclude with a session Saturday morning from 9 – noon. **It would be great to have a good group from our church make the trip to Anchorage for this event.** In addition to **waiving the registration fee**, there is help finding housing in Anchorage. **Assistance with transportation** may also be available. Dr. Bass' study series, "Embracing Spiritual Awakening" will be the basis of our Lenten Study that will start in February. In it, we will explore "generative, inviting, inclusive, and transforming practices at the heart of Christianity that can heal the world."

Looking ahead – Lenten Study to begin February 25

Mark your calendars for this year's Lenten Study that will begin Wednesday, Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m. and will run for 5 weeks. We will use a DVD based study featuring Diana Butler Bass' work on "Embracing Spiritual Awakening." A participant's guide will also be available. Watch for a sign up sheet that will be posted this month.

Community of Christian Women Meeting–January 24

The 1st meeting of the Community of Christian Women is scheduled for Saturday, January 24 at noon. All women of Northern Light United Church are invited to attend. We will make decisions about where to allocate the 2014 bazaar proceeds and take suggestions for program topics for the year. Please join us for a light lunch and fellowship. Hope to see you all there.

40th Anniversary Celebration a Great Success

Many thanks for everyone who contributed to making our December 7 40th Anniversary celebration such a wonderful event. And apologies to anyone who is inadvertently let off this list:

Anne Standerwick, Pattie Adkisson, and Barbara Searls served as the planning committee; *Mary Ann Warden* was our guest preacher, and former pastor *John Shafer* and his wife *Barbara* also traveled to Juneau and attended worship; *Sue Liim* hosted Mary Ann during her Juneau visit; *Jean Ann Alter* coordinated publicity; congratulatory letters were received from former pastors, *John Tindell, Lew Rooker, and Jesse Perry*; *June Degnan and KJ and Peggy Metcalf* produced at Powerpoint retrospective of the church and the predecessor congregations; *Averyl Veliz* designed the cover for the 40th Anniversary worship bulletin; *Myra Munson* cooked our anniversary lunch; Kristy Germain, Anne Standerwick, and others produced commemorative crosses made from the stained glass that once was in the sanctuary's east side window wall; *many members and friends* gathered to give thanks for the past present, and future of our church!

Christmas Offering Received

At both Christmas Eve services we received a special offering for Juneau’s Front Street Clinic, and initiatives of our two denominations. \$3,211.25 was collected by Northern Lighters for this offering. Half the offering went to what is now officially called the Front Street Community Health Center. Front Street was a program of SEARHC and is now an independent community effort that provides health care for all with a particular focus of serving Juneau’s homeless population.

The other half of the Christmas Eve offering was divided between the United Methodist Imagine No Malaria Campaign, and the Presbyterian Christmas Joy Offering. Working with the United Nations and other partners, the goal of Imagine No Malaria is to end the scourge of this deadly and preventable disease. Together we can do this! The Christmas Joy Offering supports racial and ethnic Presbyterian related schools and colleges as well as providing assistance for retired ministers with limited income.

December’s Giving Generous

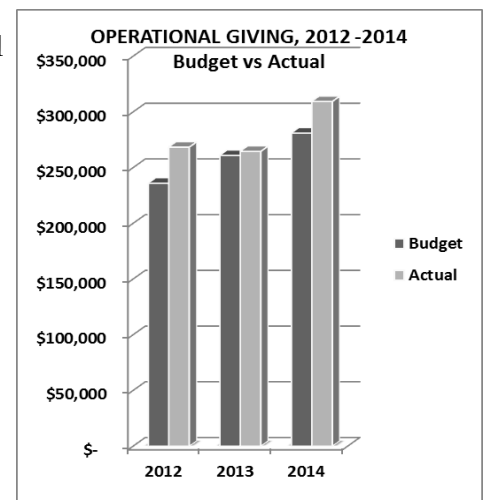
The Christmas spirit of compassion and generosity was definitely alive and well within the Northern Light congregation this year.

December’s congregational giving in support of Northern Light’s regular operations was significantly above-budget. Thank you to all who have helped this reality occur.

December’s giving empathically continued a pattern of generous support that that has existed throughout 2014. For every month in 2014, except one (and that one was barely under), congregational giving has exceeded the amount budgeted to be received during the month. As a result of this generosity the total operational giving for 2014 was 10% greater than our adopted budget assumed it would be. (December’s giving was 16% above budget.)

2014’s giving pattern also continues a recent annual pattern in congregational giving. In the two previous years, as in 2014, congregational giving has also exceeded the amount it was budgeted to be. As a result of this strong support, Northern Light’s programmatic outreach has also grown. That growth owes the congregation an appreciative “Thanks”.

Congregation giving on Christmas Eve (in support of the local Front Street Clinic and denominational outreach in battling malaria and helping impoverished church-worker families) was also impressively strong. It totaled \$4500 – almost twice what it has been each of the last two years.



Play about Homelessness in Juneau to Premiere this Month

A Lifetime to Master, a play written by Juneauite Merry Ellefson, will run January 14-25, at McPhetres Hall (4th and Gold.) “Carved from interviews with nearly 60 people—including those who are/have been homeless, leaders on the Juneau Homeless Coalition, politicians, concerned citizens and businesses owners—A Lifetime to Master is an attempt to better understand our neighbors, our challenges and the complicated issue of homelessness in Juneau.” Pastor Phil is among those who were interviewed and many of the early readings of the play were held at our church.

The first showing is a “Pay-as-you-can Preview,” 7:30 p.m. on January 14. Tickets for subsequent shows run \$16-25. For performance dates and times, and ticket purchases go to <http://www.jahc.org/event/47233386807c6aa7185c642a14d26d81/A-Lifetime-to-Master> Tickets are also available in person at the JACC and Hearthside Books.

Roof Fund-Raising Incredibly Successful!

Northern Light’s roof repair and re-shingling project is complete! The finances of the project have been huge. Our total expenses equaled \$557,000.

This project was originally believed to be in the range of \$350,000 to \$400,000 in cost. But, extensive, undiscovered rot drove up the price. It would have been significantly higher still without the vigilance and tenacity of the Committee on Property and Management.

However, the financial generosity and support of the congregation and greater community was even more incredible.

In a two-year span, our combined congregational and community efforts have, to date, raised over \$528,000 for this project! This is a mind-boggling amount of money. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

178 different individuals or organizations have given money to the project. 43% of those supporters were not part of the Northern Light congregation yet contributed \$44,000 to the project. (\$24,999 came from the Ras-muson Foundation as a grant.) The remaining 101 contributors included

three families who contributed a total of \$75,000 to the project only after others had first contributed that total amount; and,

two estates which contributed over \$94,000.

The remaining 96 current and former congregation members contributed 63% (\$323,000) of the total raised.

With a new and strong roof above us, we are now in an excellent position to sustain and grow our role as a community leader in peace, justice, and support for all.



Birthdays

1	Carol Brady	17	Rogelio Murray Shap-	29	Margaret MacKinnon
2	Kris McCune	land		29	Emily Sheakley
4	Chris Fredell	19	Jacque Farnsworth	30	Gail Coenraad
6	Yanakeen See		Thomas Beierly		Jazmine Wilson
9	George Reifenstein	22	Tom Perkins	31	Roselina Wilson
10	Debbie Hull		Grace Standerwick		
11	Jenny Pursell	24	Martha Murray		
13	Brian Vander Naald	25	Aaron Ferguson		
16	Karen Peska	27	Thea Brown		

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: Tom Perkins, Averyl Veliz, Peggy Sue Wright, Kate Burkhart, Bob Coghill, Margaret MacKinnon

*those who served as Greeters/ushers: Katherine Hope (2X), Margaret MacKinnon, Germain Family, Marie and Lijo Wilson, Bob

Coghill and Jane Ginter

*Tom Perkins, Jean Overstreet and Don and Jan Kussart who assembled the December newsletter

*Those who were refreshment hosts: Deacons, Teresa Campbell, Deb Reifenstein

*Those who provided flowers: Jean Alter, Kate Burkhart, Jean Overstreet

*Gail O'Dell and Nancy Lehnhart for designing and making the beautiful new paraments

*Individuals and families who decorated the church for Christmas and those who undecorated

*Thanks to the guest musicians at the 9 p.m. Christmas Eve service, Sara Radke Brown who sang a solo, and the String Ensemble, students of Mr. Xia's, who played before the service.

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 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Happy New Year	2 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons 4 Heartstrings	3 9 Bartlett Dads 3 Juneau String Ensemble
4 10 C.E. 11 Worship 5:30 Youth @ Douglas - p. 2	5 11 Lifering 12 Bartlett Toddlers 5 Bible Study 5:15 JPPJ 6 ANS Camp 70 7 Young Adult	6 2:30 Violin Lessons 5 AWARE	7 12 ACOA 3 Girl Scouts 5:30 Chancel Choir	8 5 Council	9 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons 4 Heartstrings	10 10 JLO Rehearsal 3 Juneau String Ensemble 6 Tlingit Language Families
11 10 C.E. 11 Worship Annual Meeting 3 JLO Concert & Reception 5:30 Youth	12 11 Lifering 12 B. Toddlers 5 Bible Study 5:15 JPPJ 7 Young Adult Group	13 2:30 Violin Lessons	14 12 ACOA 3 Girl Scouts 5:30 Chancel Choir 7 Mudrooms	15 5 AYC Parent Meeting 5:15 Glory Hole Board Meeting	16 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons 4 Heartstrings	17 3 Juneau String Ensemble
18 10 Ch. Ed 11 Worship 5 ANB/ANS Officer Installation 5:30 Youth@ Aldersgate	19 11 Lifering 12 B. Toddlers 5 Bible Study 5:15 JPPJ 5:30 SPRC 7 Young Adult Group	20 2:30 Violin Lessons	21 12 ACOA 5:30 Chancel Choir 6 ANS Camp 2	22	23 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons 4 Heartstrings	24 12 CCW Meeting—p. 5 3 Juneau String Ensemble 6 Tlingit Language Families
25 10 Ch. Ed 11 Worship 12 Deacons 5:30 Youth@ NLUC	26 11 Lifering 12 Bartlett Toddlers 5 Bible Study 5:15 JPPJ 7 Young Adult Group	27 2:30 Violin Lessons	28 12 ACOA 5:30 Chancel Choir	29	30 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons 4 Heartstrings	31 3 Juneau String Ensemble

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Now broadcasting Sunday Services at
<https://new.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.



Please join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 11

10:00am Christian Education

11:00am Worship

No matter who you are,

no matter where you are on life's journey,

you are welcome here.