

# NORTHERN LIGHT UNITED CHURCH NEWS

MARCH 2014

## *Phil's Thoughts*

There is resolution before the Alaska Legislature that proposes an amendment to our state constitution that would allow funding for private and religious education. Currently, state education funds may only be used only to support public schools. Some religious leaders are in favor of the proposed amendment; I am not. I know that religious and other private schools have provided quality education for many, but as a state, our obligation is to assure adequate funding for quality public education – education that is free and available to all. Both of our denominations, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the United Methodist Church have long standing commitments to public education. The Reformed Tradition in which the Presbyterian Church is rooted is clear about the church's responsibility for society at large. The church is called to promote the common good rather than to seek favor for its sectarian interests. With regard to education, this means advocacy for strong public schools that provide equitable education. In 1992, the Presbyterian General Assembly declared its "vigorous support of and commitment to the American system of public education available to all children." In similar vein, the United Methodist Social Principles affirm that

education "can best be fulfilled through public policies that ensure access for all persons to free public elementary and secondary schools." The United Methodist General Conference declared that all citizens, whether or not they have children in public schools, have "an obligation to support quality public education for all children." (Resolution #5051, Book of Resolutions) Siphoning off public funds to support private education undermines this commitment.

While I am resolute in my support for public education, I also believe it is important for us to acknowledge its mixed history. In a recent editorial in the Juneau Empire, Catholic Bishop Edward Burns recounts the anti-Catholic discrimination that accompanied the beginnings of public education in our country. The first public schools were not anti-religious, but they were not pluralistic. They implicitly, if not explicitly, promoted Protestantism in contrast with Catholicism or any other religious practice. Catholic schools began, in part, to counter the Protestant bias of public schools.

In addition to their Protestant bias, public schools were also rooted in our country's racist

past. White ways and English language were promoted at the expense of diverse cultural and linguistic expression. Native traditions were suppressed, and "separate but equal" school systems assured the continuance of white dominance.

It is crucial to know this history, and it is necessary to repent of it. It is also important to acknowledge how significantly public education has changed and is changing. As the United Meth-

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## *Youth Corner*



WE ARE  
 CONSIDERING  
 WHAT IT LOOKS  
 LIKE TO LIVE  
 NONVIOLENTLY  
 AND LIVING UP TO  
 THE CHALLENGE TO  
 THE BEST OF OUR  
 ABILITY

I don't know about you, but I am wondering where February went! Over the past month, we have made and sold Super Bowl subs, had a Super Bowl Party, had our first open mic night, hosted and served at the mission trip fundraiser dinner, and enjoyed our first Love Feast (a tradition from the early Christians), as well as a game of "Big Booty" (ask one of our teens...they are the ones who taught it to me!).

As we head into March, we are considering what it looks like to live nonviolently and living up to the challenge to the best of our ability. The Love Feast we had served as a wonderful introduction to our discussions to be had about ways to communicate in the spirit of love and nonviolence whether we agree with someone or

not. We are heading in this direction because John Dear, the most recently "ex-" Jesuit priest known for his many years working for peace and justice non-violently and author of *The Nonviolent Life*, is coming to Juneau at the end of April (Apr 25-27).

Young people have such a light and an enthusiasm that make me believe that change is possible. I invite all of you to join us March 8 (9-11 AM) and/or March 29 (12-2 PM) for our Litter-Free pick up to raise money for the mission trip. This does not have to be a fundraiser. The time together doing something good in our community can be used, additionally, to get to hang out with our awesome young people!

Thank you for your sup-

port of our young people and their endeavors. And to the young people within these congregations, as well as those who do not go to church, you seriously rock something hard core! I cannot say enough how thankful I am to know you and receive so much hope from what you have to share.

Many blessings,  
Melissa

March 2 ~ DNA @ NLUC

March 9 ~ Mission Trip + DNA @ Douglas

March 16 ~ DNA @ Aldersgate

March 23 ~ Mission trip + DNA @ NLUC

March 30 ~ DNA @ Douglas+ Juneau Pioneers Home

## *Pancake Supper March 4*

Get yourself ready for Lent at the **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 6 p.m. on March 4!** Shrove Tuesday, also known as "Fat Tuesday" is the day before Lent begins and traditionally it is celebrated as a time to "eat, drink and be merry." Pancakes are the traditional Shrove

Tuesday meal in order for households to use up rich ingredients such as eggs, milk, and sugar before Lenten fasting begins. But whether or not you will give up pancakes for Lent, come eat your fill on Shrove Tuesday! The program will include Cajun tunes by Dale Wygant

on his accordion. If you would like to help prepare, cook and/or clean up for the Pancake Supper, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, or contact the church office, 586-3131, [nluc@ak.net](mailto:nluc@ak.net).

## *Lent Begins*

Join us **Ash Wednesday, March 5, 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary** for a fifteen minute service as our Lenten Journey begins. The service will include scripture, prayer, and for those who wish to receive, the imposition of ashes (the sign of the cross in ash placed on your forehead).

This year's **Lenten Study** will be **Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, March 12 – April 9**. It will focus on *The Nonviolent Life*, a book by John Dear, a peacemaker and Catholic priest. His approach to nonviolence is rooted in his commitment to live as a disciple of Jesus. It explores what he describes as the three movements of the nonviolent life:  
 “Nonviolence toward ourselves,”  
 “Nonviolence toward all others,” and  
 “Joining the Global Grassroots Movement of Nonviolence.”  
 The book costs \$16 and are available at the church. To reserve a

book, sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall, or call or email church, 586-3131, [nluc@ak.net](mailto:nluc@ak.net).

John Dear will be in Juneau April 25-27; his visit will include a nonviolence workshop on April 26.

Cooperative Church Council **Lenten Lunches** are March 6 – April 10. Our church will again host them, **Thursdays, Noon – 1 from March 6 – April 10**. This year's theme is “Behold, I am doing a New Thing.” The luncheon features an inspirational speaker, music, and a soup and bread meal. The churches take turns providing soup and bread. The program begins at 12:10 and is completed by 12:50. Speakers include **David Katzeek** on March 13 and **Melissa Engel** on March 27. **Dale Wygant** will provide music on March 13, and **Tlingit Gospel Singers** on April 3.

On **March 6** we will **provide and serve the soup as well as set up**. We

need five big pots of soup for this luncheon and we are also responsible for set up and beverages.

On **March 13** we will **provide breads and butter and clean up**. Please bring at least two homemade OR good store-bought loaves to the church no later than 11:30. Clean up should take less than one hour starting at 1:00 p.m. after the lunch.

To volunteer, sign up on the bulletin board or contact Judy Knight at 586-9562 or the church office, 586-3131, [nluc@ak.net](mailto:nluc@ak.net). A \$5 suggested donation for lunch will go to the Glory Hole. Everyone is welcome – bring a friend!

**Something New For Lent** An idea that emerged from our visioning process is to rework our worship announcements. During Lent we will try a new option. The announcement time will be abbreviated and occur after the greeting time at the start of the service (before the Call to Worship).

THE STUDY WILL FOCUS  
 ON THE NONVIOLENT  
 LIFE, A BOOK BY JOHN  
 DEAR, A PEACEMAKER  
 AND CATHOLIC PRIEST.  
 DEAR'S APPROACH TO  
 NONVIOLENCE IS  
 ROOTED IN HIS  
 COMMITMENT TO LIVE  
 AS A DISCIPLE OF  
 JESUS

## *Race Conversation continues March 25*

The study group on race and privilege engaged in significant discussion of identity and culture at its February 25 gathering. The discussion continues **Tuesday, March 25, 6:30** in the Fellowship Hall. We are using the **“Cracking the Codes”** documentary as our guide. The March 25 focus will be “Bias and Privilege” New participants welcome.

## *Phil's Thoughts continued*

odist resolution on education describes, "The public school is the primary route for most children into full participation in our economic, political, and community life." Public schools that were conduits for discrimination are now positioned to be vehicles for liberation, justice, and full and equitable involvement in society. The resolution continues: "As a consequence of inequities in our society, we have a moral responsibility to support, strengthen, and reform public schools. They have been, and continue to be, both an avenue of opportunity and a major cohesive force in our society, a society becoming daily more diverse racially, culturally, and religiously."

PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
CAN BECOME  
AGENTS OF  
TRANSFORMATION.  
BUT THEY CANNOT  
DO THIS WITHOUT  
ADQUETE FUNDING.

Public schools can become agents of transformation. But they cannot do this without adequate funding. Diverting public funds to support private education will further reduce the already limited funds schools have. Public schools need more money, not less.

Supporting public education means appreciating and respecting teachers and other staff that devote their lives to our society's children – all the children, not just those who private institutions might choose to accept. It means adequately funding schools so that they can do the enormous job with which we entrust them.

Supporting education also means holding schools (and other institutions such as churches, governments and businesses and nonprofits) accountable. The Racism and the Schools working group of the community wide Conversation on Race that we host is examining the Juneau School Districts Equity Standards. It is important to develop effective ways to assess and improve the district's equity efforts so that all children can learn and grow. The church is called to be part of the mix. As the Presbyterian General Assembly has stated, we are "called upon to confront the stubborn continuance of racial prejudice, particularly the persistence of societal attitudes that discourage academic achievement among economically disadvantaged and children of color students and others at risk." The General Assembly has further declared, "An education of high quality for all children is an obligation of society and indispensable to the political and economic health of our democracy...we are called to respond in every possible way with measures that seek to evidence love and justice in the education of children and youth."

I am grateful for the commitments of so many in our congregation as together we strive for quality education for all children in our community. Side by side and hand in hand, we work for equity and excellence that will equip all children to participate in society and thrive in life. It is as simple and as challenging as loving our neighbor – all our neighbors – as ourselves. As the great theologian H. Richard Niebuhr put it, that is the purpose of the church – to increase the love of God and neighbor. Let's keep at it.

***New Members to be Received.....***We will be receiving new members into our church soon. This will occur during a Sunday morning service when we officially welcome them. To find out more about church membership or express your interest in joining, please contact Phil at 586-3131 or [nlucpastor@ak.net](mailto:nlucpastor@ak.net).

## 2014 Operational Giving Begins Strong

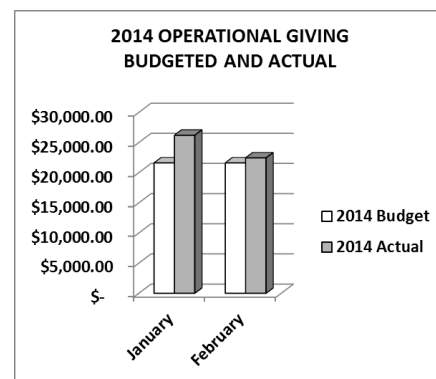
Giving during the first two months of the year in support of church operations has been strong. Thanks to all who have helped start 2014 with an above-budget level of support. As of the last Sunday in February total giving for the church's day-to-day operations was about 12% greater than

what the adopted budget assumed it would be.

Congregational giving during both January and February was above-budget. January giving was especially impressive; 21% greater than it was budgeted to be.

It has been fortunate that January and February's giving has been so strong.

During these two months, especially February, our operational costs have also been above budget. The major "extraordinary" expense was the cost of replacing the carpet. With stronger than budgeted giving, this greater-than-usual-monthly cost was "covered."



## News from the Community of Christian Women (CCW)

Just shy of 20 individuals attended the February 22nd CCW meeting, which opened with a devotional centered around faith and courage. Examples of these traits were discussed followed by the reading of scripture in 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-6. The group watched an informational film about AK Child and Family (formerly Alaska Children's Services) provided by Judy Knight. AK Child and Family and its previous iterations have been supported by the Methodist Church since it started as the Jesse Lee Home.

Following a delicious lunch of quiche, fruit salad and mini muffins, discussion turned to the serious business of where to allocate the proceeds of the fall 2013 bazaar. The bazaar is an annual event by CCW to raise funds to support programs that benefit women and children here in Juneau, statewide and globally. A total of \$7,000 was allocated leaving additional funds in the treasury in case additional needs are identified later in the year. Allocations are as follows:

**\$1,000 each:** United Methodist Women, Presbyterian Women

**\$500 each:** AWARE, AK Child and Family (formerly Alaska Children's Services), Camp Champ, Kenyan Health Scholarship, Haven House, DNA Youth Mission Trip, Douglas Methodist Breakfast Program, Guatemala Mission Follow-Up, No More Malaria, Summer Lunch Program

The group decided to schedule meetings on a quarterly basis with suggestions for study to include prayer, the Psalms, and updated information on the programs and projects we are supporting.

Officers elected for 2014 are:

*President* - Carol Barril; *Vice-President* - Janet Kussart; *Secretary* - Kate Burkhart; *Treasurer* - Judy Knight

All women of Northern Light United Church are members of CCW. We urge any of you with questions or concerns to contact any of the officers. You are all welcome to the next meeting, which will be announced at a later date.

## *Birthdays*



2	Greg Germain		Kristina Benson		Johnny Barnhill
7	Olga Lipson		JD Elisoff	27	Karen Lipson
8	Judy Morley	20	Kevin O'Neal-Smith		Verity Blankenship
12	Jessica Hope		Talia Schlosser	29	Pete Scott
13	Melinda Carr	22	Kelly Henriksen		Ruby Hope
	Haida Kenney		Carly Lehnhart	30	Rachel Doogan
18	Charlie Joseph	23	Margie Thomson		

## *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:

\*Liturgists for February: John Evans, Betsy Brenneman, Peggy Metcalf and Tom Perkins

\*Greeters/ushers for February: Reggie Marvin, Katherine Hope, KJ and Peggy Metcalf and Kate Burkhart

\*Tom Perkins and Don & Janet Kussart who assembled the February newsletter

\*Refreshment hosts for January: KJ and Peggy Metcalf, Carol Barril, and Debbie Reifenstein

\*Those who provided flowers for Sunday worship: Kate Burkhart

*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](mailto:nluc@ak.net).*

## *Households with Young Children Group to Meet March 29*

Calling Northern Light parents (or grandparents or guardians) and children! You are invited to gather **Saturday, March 29, 5 p.m. at the church**. This is a group for households with preschool and elementary aged children. Our time together will include a potluck dinner, getting to know each other, playtime for the kids and conversation about our church's ministry with children. For more info, to confirm attendance, and/or share your ideas for this group, contact Phil at the church, 586-3131, [nlucpastor@ak.net](mailto:nlucpastor@ak.net), or Anne Standerwick, 586-4417, [astanderwick@acsalaska.net](mailto:astanderwick@acsalaska.net).

## *Sanctuary Update*

Many thanks to the Committee on Property Management and all who helped move the pews and other furniture so that the sanctuary and fellowship hall could be re-carpeted last month. The new carpet looks great! Pew upholstery is the next phase of refurbishment. Over the next several weeks, the pews will be redone, a few at a time. If your favorite place is unavailable one Sunday, don't worry; there will be room elsewhere and your pew will soon be back with new fabric and foam padding!

**The Adult Bible Class will start a study of the Gospel of Mark the first Sunday of March.** We are using a book by Werner N. Kelber, entitled: *Mark's Story of Jesus*. Please join us! Contact John Pugh at 586-1598 to get a copy of the book and to learn more about the class.

# MARCH 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>2 <b>10 Christian Education</b>  <b>11 Worship</b>  <b>5:30 Youth Group - NLUC</b></p>	<p>3 <b>11 Lifering</b>            12 Bartlett Toddlers            5:15 JPPJ            6 ANS  <b>7 Young Adult Group</b></p>	<p>4            2:30 Guo Xia  <b>6:00 Pancake Supper - p.3</b></p>	<p>5            12 ACOA  <b>5:30 Ash Wednesday Service - p.3</b>  <b>5:30 Chancel Choir</b></p>	<p>6  <b>12:00 Lenten Lunch - p.3</b>            6:00 Girl Scouts            6:00 Charter School Performance</p>	<p>7 <b>7 Men's Breakfast</b>            12 ACOA            3 Guo Xia            4 Heartstrings            4:15 Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>1/8</b>            1-9am Bartlett Dads            3 Juneau String Ensemble</p>
KLUKWAN CITY SCHOOLS OVERNIGHT						
<p>9 <b>10 Christian Education</b>  <b>11 Worship</b>  <b>5:30 Youth Group - Douglas</b></p>	<p><b>10</b>            12 Bartlett Toddlers            5:15 JPPJ            5:30 Girl Scouts  <b>7 Young Adult Group</b></p>	<p><b>11</b>            2:30 Guo Xia            7:00 Mudrooms</p>	<p><b>12</b> 12:00 FASD            12 ACOA  <b>2:45 Girl Scouts</b>  <b>5:30 Chancel Choir</b>  <b>6:30 Lenten Study - p.3</b></p>	<p><b>13</b>  <b>12:00 Lenten Lunch</b>  <b>5 Council</b></p>	<p><b>14</b> <b>7 Men's Breakfast</b>            12 ACOA            3 Guo Xia            4 Heartstrings</p>	<p><b>15</b>            3 Juneau String Ensemble</p>
<p>16 <b>10 CE</b>  <b>11 Worship</b>  <b>5:30 Youth Group - Aldersgate</b>            3:00 Juneau Symphony</p>	<p>17 <b>11 Lifering</b>            12 Bartlett Toddlers            5:15 JPPJ  <b>7 Young Adult Group</b></p>	<p><b>18</b>            2:30 Guo Xia</p>	<p><b>19</b>            12 ACOA  <b>5:30 Chancel Choir</b>  <b>6:30 Lenten Study</b></p>	<p><b>20</b>  <b>12:00 Lenten Lunch</b>            6:00 Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>21</b>            7 Men's Breakfast            12 ACOA            3 Guo Xia            4 Heartstrings            4:15 Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>22</b>            3 Juneau String Ensemble</p>
<p>23  <b>10 Christian Education</b>  <b>11 Worship</b>  <b>5:30 Youth Group - NLUC</b></p>	<p>24 <b>11 Lifering</b>            12 Bartlett Toddlers            5:15 JPPJ            5:30 Girl Scouts  <b>7 Young Adult Group</b></p>	<p><b>25</b>            2:30 Guo Xia  <b>6:30 Conversation on Race - p. 3</b></p>	<p>26 12 ACOA  <b>2:45 Girl Scouts</b>            5:30 Chancel Choir  <b>6:30 Lenten Study</b></p>	<p>27  <b>12:00 Lenten Lunch</b>            5:15 Glory Hole Board Meeting            6:00 Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>28</b>            7 Men's Breakfast            12 ACOA            3 Guo Xia            4 Heartstrings            4:15 Girl Scouts            4 Jnu Jazz&amp;Classics</p>	<p><b>29</b>            3 Juneau String Ensemble  <b>5 Families with Young Children - P.</b></p>
<p>30 <b>10 Ch. Ed</b>  <b>11 Worship</b>  <b>12 Deacons</b>  <b>5:30 Youth Group - Douglas</b></p>	<p>31 <b>11 Lifering</b>            12 Bartlett Toddlers            5:15 JPPJ  <b>7 Young Adult Group</b></p>	SPRC Staff Parish Relations Committee JPPJ - Juneau People for Peace & Justice ACOA - Adult Children of Alcoholics ANS - Alaska Native Sisterhood				

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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](http://northernlightchurch.org) or you can find us on face book.



*Sundays*

*10:00am Christian Education*

*11:00am Worship*

*Wednesdays beginning March 12,*

*6:30pm Lenten Study*

*No matter who you are,*

*no matter where you are on life's journey,*

*you are welcome here.*