

NORTHERN LIGHT UNITED CHURCH NEWS

MARCH 2015

Phil's Thoughts

A church I served previously operated on a July 1 fiscal year. This meant that the annual stewardship drive usually occurred during Lent rather than the fall. Because of this, some of my colleagues offered sympathy, assuming that a somber season such as Lent was an unfortunate time to try to raise money. But I didn't feel sorry for our circumstance. I found Lent a profound time to engage in a broader conversation about stewardship. Stewardship is not solely about meeting the budget. It calls us to examine our approach to life, and to clarify the purposes to which we commit our resources of time, talent, and treasure. In similar vein, Lent invites us to ask questions we might otherwise avoid amid life's busyness. Primary issues of stewardship, and of Lent, are found in Jesus' temptation in the wilderness as described in the fourth chapters of both Matthew's and Luke's gospels. The questions the tempter raises with Jesus aren't so much about what he has, but about what he will do with what he has. Whatever our gifts and graces are, to what end will we use them? An accompanying question is, are our means consistent with our goals? It is not just what we do, but how we do it.

Sometimes Lent is depicted as a time to resist over consumption, a period to give up chocolate, ice

cream, beer, or whatever we imbibe to excess. Obsessions, addictions or unhealthy preoccupations are important matters to address, and if Lenten discipline helps you do so, that is a good thing. But Jesus' temptations in the wilderness, and our wrestling with questions of stewardship, are different from this. Jesus wasn't tempted to do bad things. He was encouraged to do ostensibly good things for the wrong reasons. He was tempted to do things that might appear at first glance as admirable. According to both Matthew's and Luke's gospels, the tempter encouraged Jesus to exert economic, political, and spiritual influence. Who better than Jesus to do so? And all it would have cost him to do it was his soul.

Jesus was tempted to kid himself, to cut corners, to take the expedient path, to go along to get along, and to make unethical compromises for presumably justifiable ends. Have you ever been faced with such a dilemma? Life is complex, and sometimes in order to achieve a desired outcome, we might be enticed to abandon our convictions and jettison our spiritual moorings. That is what the tempter offered Jesus – a way that appeared easier and more attractive than the cross. Instead of the way of humble love and radical compassion, the tempter proposed the path of world domination that

often includes intimidation, coercion, and manipulation. Anyone who wields economic, political, or spiritual power in our day and age is faced with similar predicaments. The issue for Jesus and the issue for us boils down to this: Whom shall we serve? Do we desire material riches? Fame and popularity? Power and control? Will we serve these gods, or the God of all compassion and peace who created it all and called it good? Is wealth and security our bottom line, or is it the love of neighbor?

There are many demands on our time and resources. As a church and as individuals, there is nothing wrong with taking care of ourselves, making wise investments, and engaging in good business deals. But the questions of stewardship and Lent remain: to what end, for whose benefit, and who are we serving? May God guide us as the journey of Lent, and the journey of life, continue.

*Don't be tempted by the shiny apple
Don't you eat of a bitter fruit
Hunger only for a taste of justice
Hunger only for a world of truth
'Cause all that you have is your soul*

- Tracy Chapman

Youth Corner

Hello young people, pastors, parents, guardians, and friends!

It is already March this Sunday! Time moves quickly! This month, we will have Spring Break during which we will lead and participate in a 30 Hour Famine with the youth group of St. Paul Catholic Church. We are also in the season of Lent, which is a great time to observe a juice fast, do justice work in the community, and dive deep into some spiritual and reflective practices to draw us nearer to God. Take a look at the calendar and please note when and where the 30 Hour Famine will take place. A note on the prayer flags: They will be made and prayed over during the 30 Hour Famine and sold afterward to raise additional awareness of world hunger and funds for the people we will help.

We are also in the midst of examining ourselves and the youth group in order to find a vision and mission statement for this ecumenical, faith-based youth group cooperative because we need a name! Questions like: who are we? What do we do? How do we talk about

youth group? Who do we welcome? How do we act in the community and what are our priorities and values? are the questions that we are asking ourselves right now.

I wanted to formally make an announcement that many of you have already heard: Starting July 1, I will be the pastor of Douglas Community United Methodist Church. I will remain the youth pastor of this youth group cooperative in addition to my pastoral appointment at Douglas UMC. Woohoo!! :-)

As you will see at the bottom of this e-newsletter, I am listing the calendar of events (subject to change and be added to!) until the end of May. Just a note: we don't meet regularly in the summer but there may be some events that I announce as ways to do service or just get together for some fun.

Blessings in this Lenten season and during this time of reflection that is the in-between time of winter and spring,

Melissa

Cooperative Youth Group ~ Calendar of Events

March 1 Douglas UMC
5:15-7:17 PM

March 8 St. Brendan's
5:15-7:17 PM We welcome St. Brendan's officially into the CYG!

March 15 Holy Trinity
5:15-7:17 PM

March 20-March 21 30 Hour Famine More info to come! Fri. 10 AM-10 PM, Sat. 8 AM-4 PM @ Northern Light United Church

March 22 Aldersgate UMC
5:15-7:17 PM

March 27 Movie Night
Location TBA, 7:00 PM

March 29 Northern Light
5:15-7:17 PM ~ Palm Sunday!

STARTING JULY 1, I
WILL BE THE PASTOR
AT DOUGLAS
COMMUNITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH. I
WILL REMAIN THE
YOUTH PASTOR OF THIS
YOUTH GROUP IN
ADDITION TO MY
APPOINTMENT

New Member

On November 2, 2014 Bob Coghill joined the church. He offers the following as an introduction:

Hi, I am Bob Coghill. I was raised in Nenana and raised two children in Fairbanks. My kids are school teachers in Reno, NV. I am a third generation member of an Alaskan family that excels at dog mushing, stock car racing and politicking. I am retired after fifty years in management and accounting of diverse businesses including ANCSA corporations and non-profit-do-gooder agencies. My recreation is walking and politics. I will walk the Camino de Santiago with my partner Jane Ginter this spring. I was elected deacon in January and am active in the Sunday School. I was confirmed in the Episcopal church May 24, 1964. I have attended Episcopal, Lutheran, Baptist, Unitarian and Roman Catholic congregations but was a member of just the first two denominations before NLUC. I am happy to belong to a congregation with so many Alaskan Native people as I grew up in similar congregations. In Nenana we sang hymns in Gwitchen Athabaskan rather than Tlingit.

Lenten Study Continues Wednesdays through March 25

We are meeting on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and using a DVD based study featuring Diana Butler Bass' work on "Embracing Spiritual Awakening." The DVD is supplemented by a print participants' guide. New participants are welcome, and you are invited to join the conversation whether or not you are using the guide.

Upcoming topics are:

March 4: **Believing.** What do you believe and why? How do your beliefs shape the way you live?

March 11: **Behaving.** Is the focus of our faith following the rules, or living with meaning and purpose?

March 18: **Belonging.** What kind of community do we want to be? Dr.

Bass suggests we can insight into this by shifting the question from who are you to whose are you?

March 25: **Awakening.** What are the connections between new ways of believing, behaving, and belonging that will lead to transformation for us individually and collectively?

Lenten Lunches Continue Thursdays through March 26

The Juneau Cooperative Church Council's Lenten lunches will continue through March 26. Lunches are from noon until 1:00 p.m. We actually start serving at 11:50 so you never have to wait in line. A variety of home-made soups and breads are provided by a different church each week. The program begins at 12:10 and concludes at 12:50 in time for those who work. Please join us for the remaining Thursday lunches through March 26

The theme for this year's Lenten Lunches is from Revelation, "Gathering at the Water". Speakers include Sherry Patterson, Tari Stage-Harvey and Sister Marie Lucek. Lunch donations go to the Glory Hole. If you have questions, contact Pastor Phil at 586-3131 or Judy Knight at 586-9562.

Northern Light is responsible for bread and clean-up on March 26. Please sign up on the bulletin board for either help with clean-up or to donate 1 or 2 loaves of good bread for serving. Clean-up takes about 30 minutes.

Ordination and Installation slated for March 1

Join us for worship on Sunday, March 1, 11 a.m. as we install this year's officers and committee members and ordain new deacons and elders. In Presbyterian practice, deacons are ordained into their office, as are elders. In our united Presby-

terian and United Methodist Church, our Church Council members serve the role of elders, and some are ordained as Presbyterian elders, and some follow the United Methodist practice of serving as lay leaders who are not ordained. Dur-

ing the service, all those holding elected office – Council, Deacons, and Staff Parish Relations and Property Management Committee members will be installed, and the congregation has the opportunity to express support for our leaders.

Holy Week and Easter Information

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 29, 11 a.m. –

Worship will begin with the Palm Sunday processional and then consider the reversal of fortune as the crowds turn against Jesus by week's end. Our annual One Great Hour of Sharing special offering will be received.

Maundy Thursday,

April 2, 6:30 p.m. We will gather in the Sanctuary for Candle light, communion, readings and Taizé music.

Easter Sunday, April 5,

11 AM. Worship will feature music from all three of our singing groups: the Chancel Choir, Tlingit Gospel Singers, and Song for the Journey. New members will be received.

-For **Refreshment Time after Worship, you are invited to bring a special Easter treat to share.** We are particularly seeking breads/ muffins, hard boiled eggs, and fruit.

- **10 AM Sunday School classes will not meet on Easter Sunday.**

Easter Lilies decorate our sanctuary for Easter Sunday. If you would like to provide

a lily in honor or memory of a loved one, the cost is \$15. You may write a check to "NLUC," and note "Easter Lily" on the memo line. Donation forms, including a notation of whose honor or memory the lily is donated, can be picked up at the church, or you can call or email the church office, 586-3131, nluc@ak.net with your order and dedication information.

New Members received.

It is a Northern Light tradition to receive new members **on Easter Sunday.** If you are interested in joining our church, or would like more information about church membership, please contact our pastor, Phil, at 586-3131 or nlucpastor@ak.net.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Each year, several U.S. church bodies including our sponsoring denominations, the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Methodist Church, receive an annual offering known as **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS).** Across the world, millions of people live on less than \$1.25 a day and have to survive on very little

to no food. By giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, you're supporting programs working to provide those in need with food and safe water, relief for those affected by crises and catastrophic events, and the tools necessary to improve their lives.

This offering makes possible coordinated, worldwide responses to aid the suffering and to provide for disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts. One Great Hour of Sharing means that the churches are poised for immediate response when disaster strikes. **We will receive our special One Great Hour of Sharing offering during worship on March 29.** You may also give by sending a check to the church office, made out to Northern Light United Church (NLUC), and designated "One Great Hour of Sharing," or "OGHS" in the memo line.

Community of Christian Women (CCW) News

The next CCW gathering is **Saturday, March 7** at **10am** when LaTroy Burras, Program Coordinator for the Young Parent and Health Teen Center will speak about the work they do at the Zach Gordon Teen Center here in Juneau. Please join us to learn about the need for this program, it's goals and achievements. Light snacks will be served. We hope to see you. For more information, call Carol Barril at 586-1002.

Study on nonviolence, justice and peace

A study on nonviolence, justice and peace begins on **Sunday, March 15** at **12:45pm** in the Skuse Room and continues Sunday April 19 and May 17.

Our reference book "Jesus Christ peace maker - A New Theology of Peace" by Terrence Rynne explores Jesus's sermon on the Mount and draws applications for today's world. It goes into the history of Jesus as he walked the earth and the non violence that he exhibited. It explores why non violence is the future hope for peace. Books are available in the Fellowship Hall for \$18 (pay NLUC or Amazon Kindle \$9.99).

If you have questions contact Melody Millard, 321-5067, or KJ Metcalf at 586-6738.

February Giving Continues Downward Trend

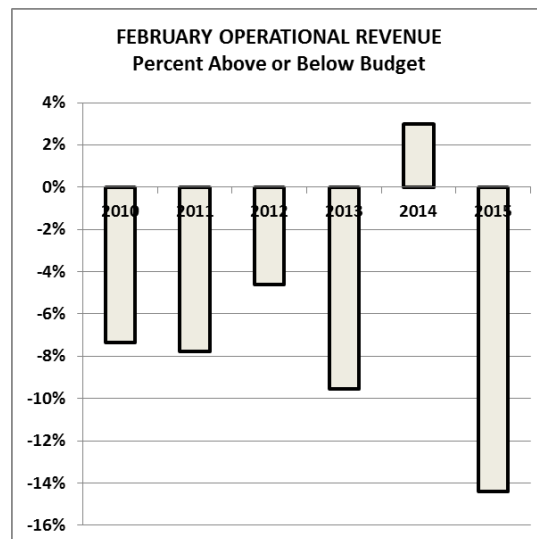
Congregational giving during February in support of Northern Light's operational budget was significantly less than what it was budgeted to be. In terms of dollars, giving was \$3,500 less than the budgeted amount of \$24,200.

Northern Light's operational budget covers all of the routine, day-to-day expenses the church incurs over the year. Since congregational giving for operations amounts to roughly 82% of our total operational revenue, it is important that congregational giving match what it is budgeted to be. Otherwise, we will be fiscally unable to accomplish all we have budgeted to do during the year.

Historically, February has been a weak month for operational giving. In 4 of the last 5 years congregational giving during February for operations has been less than what it was budgeted to be. On average February giving has been 5% under budget. Unfortunately this February's giving was much lower than the average – 14% under budget.

To return our yearly total of congregation giving for operations back to its budgeted level will require many months of above-budgeted giving by all of us. Lent may be the perfect time to begin to eliminate the shortfall.

Jim Alter,
Treasurer



Birthdays



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

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: Tom Perkins, Peggy Sue Wright, Mary Becker, Margaret MacKinnon

*Greeters/ushers for February: Lillian Austin, Judith Maier, Carol Barril, Margaret MacKinnon, Bob Coghil, Jane Ginter

*Tom Perkins, Don & Janet Kussart and Alan Akiyama who assembled the February newsletter

*Refreshment hosts for February: Deacons, Judy Knight, Carol Barril, Freda Westman, Barbara Searls

*Those who provided flowers for Sunday worship: Don & Jan Kussart, Judith Maier, Eve Reckley & Dick Haight, Freda Westman

*Special thanks to head cook John Doogan and assistants Greg Germain and Doug Germain; Anne Standerwick, chief of clean-up, and the Standerwick and Germain families for help with setup and clean-up at the Shrove Tuesday pancake gathering. And many, many thanks to all the generous attendees who donated to the Youth group's mission project.

*Many thanks to all our outstanding soup-makers, Marion Gotschall, Peggy Metcalf, Bruce Morley, Sue Lium and Denise Carroll, for the first Lenten Luncheon. Also much appreciation to Bruce Morley for his help with table set-up for the lunch.

*Thanks to the Tlingit Gospel Singers for their music at the first Lenten lunch-- John Palmes you were awesome!

Thank you from the Campbell's...

Phil and Teresa have returned to Juneau after Phil's recent surgery. They are glad to be home, and they grateful for the prayers, cards, and well wishes from the congregation. Thank you!

Weekend Food Program...We collect weekend **food items** for **students** at **Riverbend Elementary** who receive free school breakfast and lunch during the week. Items needed: apples, tangerines, cheerios, large bags of raisins, Kirkland organic chocolate milk (individual boxes that need no refrigeration), individual servings of mac & cheese, soup, small serving vegetables, either pop top cans or plastic cups, large bags of ready to eat carrots. Money donations can be checks made to NLUC with "Weekend food program" in the memo line. 60 food bags packed 10 AM on Weds. Helpers welcome. Thanks!

MARCH 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1 10 Christian Ed. 11 Worship 12 CPM 5:30 Youth Group - Douglas 7 JSE Concert</p>	<p>2 11 Lifering 5:15 JPPJ 6:30 ANS Camp 70</p>	<p>3 2:30 Violin Lessons 5:30 Pre-school training 6:30 Haven House</p>	<p>4 12 ACOA 5:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 Lenten Study - p. 3</p>	<p>5 9:30 Lectionary Study 12 Lenten Lunch - p. 3</p>	<p>6 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 2:30 Violin Lessons 4 Heartstrings</p>	<p>7 9 CCW Meeting - p. 5 3 Juneau String Ensemble 6 Tlingit Language Families</p>
<p>8 10 Christian Education 11 Worship 5:30 Youth Group - St. Brendan's</p>	<p>9 11 Lifering 5:15 JPPJ</p>	<p>10 2:30 Violin Lessons 6:30 Haven House</p>	<p>11 12 ACOA 3 Girl Scouts 5:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 Lenten Study - p. 3 7 Mudrooms</p>	<p>12 9:30 Lectionary Study 12 Lenten Lunch - p. 3 5 Council</p>	<p>13 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 2:30 Violin Lessons 4 Heartstrings</p>	<p>14 3 Juneau String Ensemble</p>
<p>15 10 Christian Education 11 Worship 12:30 Non-Violence & Justice 5:30 Youth Group - Holy Trinity</p>	<p>16 11 Lifering 5:15 JPPJ 5:30 SPRC 6:30 ANS Camp 2</p>	<p>17 2:30 Violin Lessons</p>	<p>18 12 ACOA 5:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 Lenten Study - p. 3</p>	<p>19 9:30 Lectionary Study 12 Lenten Lunch - p. 3</p>	<p>20 7 Men's Breakfast 30-Hour Famine 12 ACOA 2:30 Violin Lessons 4 Heartstrings</p>	<p>21 3 Juneau String Ensemble 6 Tlingit Language Families</p>
All week - Refreshments during Gold Medal						
<p>22 10 Christian Education 11 Worship 5:30 Youth Group - Aldersgate</p>	<p>23 11 Lifering 5:15 JPPJ</p>	<p>24 2:30 Violin Lessons</p>	<p>25 12 ACOA 5:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 Lenten Study - p. 3</p>	<p>26 9:30 Lectionary Study 12 Lenten Lunch - p. 3</p>	<p>27 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 2:30 Violin Lessons 4 Heartstrings</p>	<p>28 2 Pre-school fundraiser 3 Juneau String Ensemble</p>
<p>29 10 Christian Education 11 Worship 12 Deacons 5:30 Youth Group - NLUC</p>	<p>30 April Newsletter Deadline 11 Lifering 5:15 JPPJ</p>	<p>31 2:30 Violin Lessons</p>				

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

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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

Intern: Melissa Engel

E-mail: mengel@iliff.edu

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.



Lenten Study Wednesdays thru Mar 25 at 6:30

Lenten Lunch Series Thursdays, thru Mar 26

Sunday Schedule:

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.*