

NORTHERN LIGHT UNITED CHURCH NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2013

Phil's Thoughts

In a recent Huffington Post blog, Princeton University Presbyterian Chaplain Tara Woodard-Lehman poses a question that may threaten some ministers and congregations. She asks, "Do you really need church?" She reports on conversations she has with students who are "religious nones" – those who do not identify with any religious tradition. They are "spiritual, but not religious." They are not opposed necessarily to what they imagine that churches do, they just don't understand why they are needed. From their perspective, they see numerous volunteer opportunities, book groups, personal growth workshops, and coffee house conversations in the community, and a host of spirituality discussions online, so church doesn't seem necessary.

Do we need the church for much of what church's do? Maybe it is safer to avoid the question, but I think it is worth addressing. Most readers of this newsletter are involved in church in one way or other; so I wonder, how do you answer? Do you really need church?

Woodard-Lehman writes that she needs the church because she has a bad memory.

Church helps her recall who and whose she is as a child of God. Church reminds her of what is truly important. I resonate with her reasoning. At its best, the church is a community of memory. It reminds us that God has been active in the world long before we arrived. The ancient stories speak to us still; we don't have to make it all up as we go.

But do we really *need* church?

For me it is not so much a question of need as choice. It may be that others find God or meaning or purpose elsewhere. But for me, church is central to where I find it. Church is my connection with something larger than myself that both fills me with wonder and holds me accountable. This "something" is God, and I discover God through church – in the stories of Jesus, of the prophets, and of disciples from long ago and on the contemporary scene. At church, I encounter God again and again, not only in what has happened, but in what is happening amid

the community of God's people as we worship, work, eat, pray, laugh, play, learn, discuss, deliberate, sing and serve together. Church is where I remember that there is more to life than self-interest. It is where I encounter an amazingly diverse array of God's people, not just those "like me." At church I am motivated to hold all of creation in sacred trust and to work for a just social order. It is where I am inspired to respect and learn from all people without regard to race, class, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, age or ability. Church is where I connect the dots between all aspects of life – physical, emotional, and psychological and spiritual.

These are my answers about church. You may be thinking, "of course he would say these things; he's a minister." My answers may not be yours, but the questions are for all of us. Do you need church? Do you want church? Do you choose it? Why? What are you looking for? Can you find it here? As we start a new program year, I invite us all to reflect on the questions and our responses.

End of Summer Cookout September 1

We will end our Summer Sunday morning schedule with a cookout – worship at 10 and a cookout in the side yard of the manse/parsonage across the

street from the church to follow. Hot dogs and burgers will be provided. You are invited to bring a side dish, chips, or dessert to share. In addition to

church attendees, we want to invite all our neighbors. Please spread the word and plan to join the fun. Rain or shine!

Christian Education for All Ages September 8

Beginning September 8, Sunday classes for all ages begin meeting at **10 AM** (before 11 AM worship) and will continue throughout the school year. We have four classes: Preschool – first grade; elementary grades 2 – 5, youth, and adults.

The **preschool and elementary classes** will use a United Methodist Bible story based curriculum, *Grow, Proclaim, Serve*. **We are still assembling our teaching teams for these classes. If you are interested, please contact our pastor, Phil, 586-3131, or nlucpastor@ak.net.** The curriculum has plenty of suggestions for activities and is easy to use.

Our **youth class** is a discussion based exploration of faith and life and Alisha Saulnier will be leading the class until the first of November when she leaves Juneau. We thank her for year and a half of work with our youth, and we will be looking for other teachers later this fall.

All adults in the church are invited to participate in the **Adult Bible Class** led by John Pugh. During September the class will study the letters of John. In October they take on the study of the **Gospel of Thomas**. Thomas is an early gospel that was not included in the Bible,

and that had been lost. A manuscript was rediscovered in Nag Hammadi, Egypt in 1945, and it sheds light on the diversity of faith perspectives present in the early church. Materials are available for participants – come learn together! If you are interested in a copy of the materials, contact John Pugh at 586-1598, or the NLUC Church Office at 586-3131, and plan to show up Sundays, 10 a.m. in the Skuse Room right inside the 11th Street entrance.

Christian Education is a vital part of our ministry. Please consider being a part of it as a teacher or student.

Can We Talk? Exploring a Conversation about race, Wednesday, September 11, 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Race continues to be a major dividing line in our country. The differing reactions to incidents, both large and small, of racial discrimination or violence reveal the chasm. Too often, we don't talk with each other across racial lines; too often, we don't find the time to listen to one another's stories. Churches often reflect the divisions. Martin

Luther King, Jr. famously quoted Liston Pope who said, "Eleven o'clock on Sunday morning is the most segregated hour in America," and the segregation, by and large, continues. As a congregation of racial and cultural diversity, Northern Light is blessed to be an exception to this, although we have not always made good use of this blessing.

We are however, well positioned to try again -- to host a renewed conversation about race. All in the church and the wider Juneau community are invited to gather on **Wednesday, September 11, 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall** to talk, listen, and explore where we go from here as we seek healing and racial justice.

Match Made!

Thanks to all who have contributed money towards roof repair and replacement. The work will begin next spring and we are on our way to funding the project.

This month, a particular thank you is extended to those who have contributed money since June 22, and to an anonymous donor who is matching all gifts made between June

22 and October 1, dollar for dollar up to \$25,000. We are pleased to announce we have met the match!

These gifts (including the \$25,000 matching gift) and pledges bring the total available for the roof project to \$210,457 -- including a 2012 gift from the Denny Green Estate that the Church Council designated for the roof.

This good news is balanced by news that the roof replacement will cost \$425,000 to \$450,000. Additional gifts in support of the project will continue to be much appreciated. Together, we will assure a safe and secure place for all the amazing things that happen under our roof.

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Everyday Justice

Several of us within the Community of Christian Women (CCW) have been meeting as a study group. We are currently reading the book *Everyday Justice – The Global Impact of our Daily Choices* by author Julie Clawson. The following definition is found early in the book: “*Justice: The practical result of loving God and loving others.*”

We recently started discussing the first part of the book and have been inspired to take action, to implement one of the book’s suggestions: Be an informed shopper. It’s something we can do on a

daily basis that will have a global impact. This book is providing us with a picture, which grows clearer with each chapter, of the unacceptable conditions and human suffering which exist on the far end of many of our products.

We are currently gathering information to determine the availability of Fair Trade and/or Equal Exchange products in Juneau; we will let you know what we find out. Information on Fair Trade/Equal Exchange can be found at: <http://www.equalexchange.coop> / or you may obtain

printed pages from Melody Millard, 789-9798.

We will continue moving forward in the book and encourage other women to join us. Please do not forgo this opportunity because you feel you are too far behind; if you feel called to join, you are in exactly the right place. Please contact any of the following for more information:

Marion Gotschall, 586-3122
Melody Millard, 789-9798
Carol Barril, 586-1002

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Youth Group Meetings Resume September 15

As reported in last month’s newsletter, Melissa Engel, this year’s intern who will work with the Juneau Cooperative Youth Ministry, will arrive September 9 (4:30 a.m. on the ferry for early

risers who want to greet her!). The first youth gathering for the fall will be a **cookout for middle and high school youth and their parents/guardians**, on Sunday, **September 15, 5:30 p.m.**

at **Aldersgate UMC**, 9161 Cinema Dr. in the Valley. Be there to meet Melissa and to get started on a great year for DNA - - Douglas, Northern Light and Aldersgate youth!

Chancel Choir



POTLUCK OPEN HOUSE

Wed Sept 4 - 5:30-6:30 pm ~ Fellowship Hall

Open to everyone: Choir members past, present ... and future. And anyone interested in learning more about singing with the choir. Choir members to bring food, guests to bring themselves!

Highlights will include; Yummy food, Music Trivia Icebreaker, Some singing ... and pre-view some varied Christmas music.

Our choir is open to all music levels; You do not need to know how to read music or sing specific parts. You can place yourself anywhere within our group (or ask to be placed) and sing the notes you are most comfortable with.

**"We come together for the love of singing and to give our
praise to God through music!
We also grow as we discover our voices
and learn about music every week.
Music strengthens us and brings us together."**

Questions? Contact Gail at godell@gci.net - or call 523-4781(day) and 586-8018 (evenings)

Alleluia Children's Choir returns in October

Households with young children, mark your calendars for another round of Alleluia Choir rehearsals in October. They will take place at 10:45 – the last 15 minutes of the Sunday School hour on October 20, 27, November 3 and 10. The choir will sing during worship on November 10. All children are welcome!

Ringling in the Rainforest

Resurrection Lutheran Church and Chapel by the Lake are hosting a handbell workshop at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 740 W 10th Street, September 20 and 21. The workshop is going to be lead by Sandra Eithun, M.M. Ed, graduate of Silver Lake College in Manitowoc, WI. Registration is \$55, \$70 after September 3. Friday dinner is included. Saturday meals are no-host. Music must

be purchased in advance. For more info, see print-out on bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall or contact Lucy Merrell at 586-1741 or lmerrell@gci.net.

Summer Lunch Program Concludes

From the first week of June into the second week of August, many Northern Lighters helped cook and serve lunch at Gruening Park and Douglas United Methodist. Lunch was served at both locations Monday through Friday, and Northern Light members provided the children (and often parents and caregivers) meals on Mondays at Gruening Park and Tuesdays and Thursdays in Douglas. In addition, crafts and stories were shared with children at Gruening Park. We had hoped that serving meals at our church might have been possible, but we determined that we were more likely to reach those most needing the meals at the other locations.

Many thanks to Linda McCargar who coordinated the schedule as well as helping with the preparation and serving. Thanks also to:

Our fabulous cooks: Myra Munson, Freda Westman and Kate Burkhart

Cookie bakers: Marion Gotschall, Sue Lium and Carol Barril

Gruening Park activity coordinator: Andi Story

Others (not already mentioned above) who helped prepare, serve, set up, and interact with the lunch program participants: Jean Ann Alter, Mary Becker, Phil Campbell, Teresa Campbell, Vivian Hegg, Joy Lyon, Peggy Metcalf, George Partlow, and Margaret Pugh (*editor's note: if anyone has been inadvertently left off this list, we thank you as well!*)

This was our first year offering summer lunches. This is an important outreach as there are many children in our community who receive free or reduced price lunches at school during the school year, but have not had access to lunch in the summer. In addition to those who participated in the effort, many others expressed interest in helping, but could not due to conflicts with schedule or location. We are planning to help serve lunches again next year and we will explore how to expand the program including whether serving lunch at Northern Light might be a viable option.

Dress for Clean up September 15!!

On September 15, following the 11am worship service and a hearty snack in the Fellowship Hall, the Committee on Property Management is planning a thorough all church cleanup after noon. We need all the helping hands we can get to wash the windows, walls, sills, moldings, doors, shampoo chairs, go through closets to sort

and recycle or get rid of items that are unneeded or unused. If you know the history and/or use of some of the items stored such as the box of "stuff" at the top of the stairs outside the loft area, please come and help make the decisions as to what is not necessary to the operation of the church or other church users. Please bring

any extra work gloves or cleaning supplies you may have but we will have supplies on hand also. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall - many hands make light work! Thank you in advance for your participation.

Karen Dillon
Committee on Property
Management Chair

Alaska Presbytery to meet September 27-29 at Northern Light

Presbyterian ministers and commissioners from throughout Southeast Alaska will gather at our church for the fall meeting of the Alaska Presbytery beginning Friday, September 27, at 1 p.m. It runs through worship on Sunday, September 29. The meeting will feature a Friday afternoon address by Rev. Dr. Neal Presa, the moderator of the General Assembly, the national Presbyterian body. This will be a wonderful opportunity for Northern Lighters to learn more of the national

work of one of our denominations. The main agenda for the gathering is discussion and discernment about the future of the Presbyterian Church, USA in Southeast Alaska. With so few churches in Southeast, alignment with a neighboring presbytery may be in the offing.

As the host church, we have responsibilities for housing, meals and transportation. Many volunteers will be needed to cook, serve, set up and cleanup, transport to and

from the airport and ferry terminal, and house out of town participants. **If you can help in any of these areas, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, or call or email the church office, 586-3131, nluc@ak.net.** To find out more about how you can help with the meals, contact Pattie Adkisson who is the food coordinator. More information about housing attendees may be obtained from housing coordinator Judy Knight at 586-9562.





Meals on Wheels Delivery Volunteers Needed

The Meals On Wheels Program is currently seeking dependable, trustworthy people to serve as meal delivery volunteers. Volunteers are needed to deliver a regular delivery route one day a week or to serve as substitutes on an occasional basis.

Volunteers delivering meals on the Downtown,

Douglas, or Lemon Creek routes would pick up the meals at the Juneau Senior Center. Those wishing to serve the Valley or Auke Bay routes would pick up the meals at St. Paul's Church. Most routes include about 10-15 homes and take volunteers about an hour to complete.

The Meals On Wheels volunteer provides not only a hot meal, but a friendly face and a safety check as well, since the volunteer is oftentimes the only person the elder might see each day. If you think you might be able to help, please call Zachary Hozid at 463-6179. Thank you!

Learning opportunity - Diana Butler Bass to speak in Anchorage

Author Diana Butler Bass who writes about Christianity, spirituality, and the future of the church will be in Anchorage for a two day learning event October 18 and 19. The event is free for those affiliated with Alaska United Methodist

churches, including Northern Light. The author of eight books, Dr. Bass is described as “a Christian who attempts to live the generative, inviting, inclusive, and transforming practices at the heart of Christianity that can heal the world.” It

would be great if a group of Northern Lighters can get to Anchorage to participate in this opportunity. To find out more, talk with our pastor, Phil, 586-3131, nlucpastor@ak.net, or go to the Alaska UMC website, <http://alaskaumc.org/?p=2963>.

Looking ahead - Small Group Dinners

Another set of small group dinners will begin soon. These are opportunities for members and friends to gather in homes in groups of 6 – 8 to get to know one another better. Nancy Norman will coordinate this fall's dinners and more info will be forthcoming in the October newsletter. If you would like to host a dinner, call or email the church office, 586-3131, nluc@ak.net.

Budget Update

Congregational giving in support of regular church operations during August was very close to what it was budgeted to be – only \$146 under the expectation. Thanks to all who made contributions during August.

If every month's giving was as close to budget as August's was, we would only be about one thousand dollars off budget by the end of the year. However, as of the end of

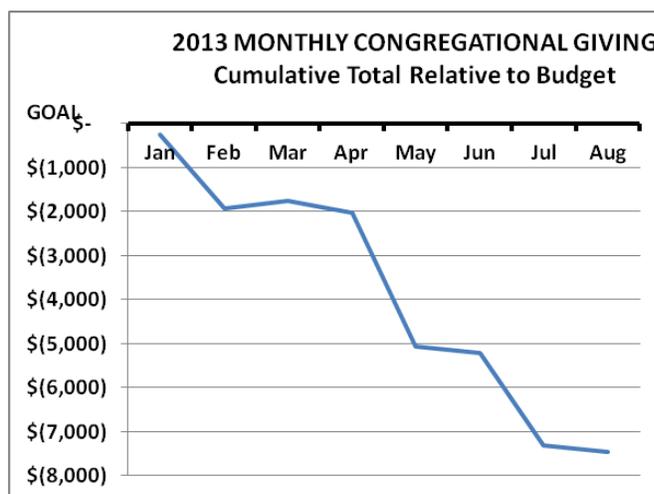
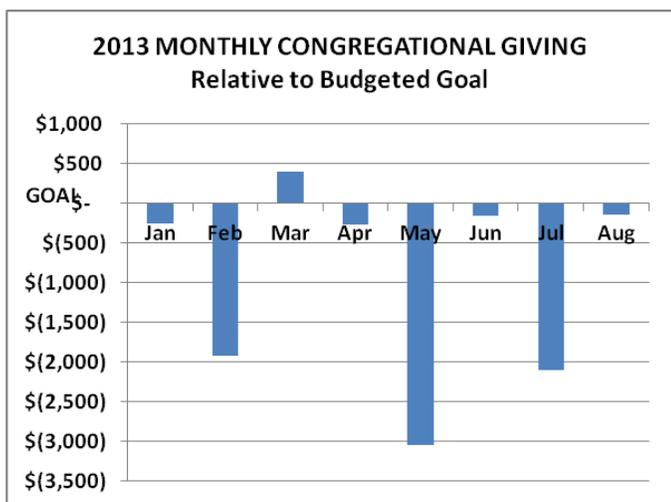
August, our cumulative, year-to-date giving for the day-to-day operations is (as the second chart indicates) already about \$7,500 under budget.

Why? The first chart illustrates the answer to this question.

During 3 of this year's first 8 months our giving was greatly under what it was budgeted to be. The 5 close-to-budget months

have done nothing to offset the big deficits of the other 3 months.

Four months remain in 2013. If, for 3 of those months we can increase our giving by the same magnitude as we undergave earlier this year, our budgetary expectations will be met. Based on last year's giving, we know this is possible. Will we make the extra push?



Birthdays



2	Lillian Petershoare	12	Glendia Malaby		Carrie Hope
3	Don Kussart	13	Ross Soboleff	25	Margaret Pugh
4	Marie Wilson	14	Dorothy Bowen	26	Catherine Alter
5	Ronald Williams		Selina Everson		KJ Metcalf
	Miranda Holland	17	Katherine Hope	28	Leona Williams
8	Pamela Williams		Judy Shuler		Allan Engstrom
	Christian Veliz	18	Susan Bus		Michael Petershoare
9	Ray Malaby		Nancy Lehnhart	29	Rudy Brantner
10	Marion Gotschall	20	Scott McHenry	30	Howard Rider
	Gail O'Dell	22	Ingeborg Lorensen		David Dobler
11	Richard Patrick	23	Rebecca Easton		Jackson Lehnhart
	Doogan				

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 August: Tom Perkins, Peggy Sue Wright, Melody Millard and Gail O'Dell

*Greeters/ushers for August: Dorothy Bowen, Mary Becker, Kristy Germain, Margaret, John and Sophia Pugh, and Carol Barril

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

*Breakfast hosts for August: Tlingit Gospel Singers, Lyon Family, MacKinnons and Normans and the Summer Lunch Crew

*Those who provided flowers: Judy Knight, Melody Millard, Kate Burkhart and Lisa Akiyama

*Thank you to Gail O'Dell, Director, and Anne Standewick, accompanist, and the Chancel Choir; to John Palmes and Barbara Searls and the Tlingit Gospel Choir; to John and Nancy Norman and the Children's Alleluia Choir and to all the musicians in our congregation.

Thank you for your dedication to rehearsing and sharing your gift of music as part of the worship service where you lead by raising your prayers of praise through song.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

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.

Don't forget about the cook-out Sunday, September 1st at the manse/parsonage across from the church after 10am worship.

AND, starting September 8, worship is at 11:00 and Christian education for all ages is at 10:00.

SEPTEMBER 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1 LAST DAY OF SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE 10:00 Worship Annual Neighborhood cook-out to follow	2 11 Lifering 12 Bartlett Toddlers	3 2:30 Guo Xia 5:00 AYC 6:30 JLO 7:00 Young Adult Group	4 Noon ACOA 5:30 Chancel Choir Potluck - p. 5 6:30 JLO	5 5:00 AYC 6:30 JLO	6 7 Men's Breakfast Noon ACOA 3:00 Guo Xia 4:00 Heartstrings	7 AYC Breakfast and Orientation 3:00 Juneau String Ensemble	
8 FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE STARTS 10:00 Christian Education 11:00 Worship	9 11 Lifering 12 Bartlett Toddlers 5:15 JPPJ 5:30 ANS Camp 70 6:00 Pre-school board	10 2:30 Guo Xia 5:00 AYC 5:30 Finance 7:00 Young Adult Group 6:30 JLO	11 Noon ACOA 5:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 "Can we talk?" - p. 2 6:30 AYC Board 6:30 JLO	12 5:00 Council 5:00 AYC 6:30 JLO	13 7 Men's Breakfast Noon ACOA 3:00 Guo Xia 4:00 Heartstrings 6:30 JLO	14 9am Bartlett Dads 3:00 Juneau String Ensemble 6:30 JLO	
15 10:00 Christian Education 11:00 Worship 5:30 Youth Group - Aldersgate - p.4	16 11:00 Lifering 12 Bartlett Toddlers 5:15 JPPJ 5:30 SPRC	17 1:00 CO-OP Church Council 2:30 Guo Xia 5:00 AYC 6:30 JLO 7:00 Young Adult Group	18 12:00 ACOA 5:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 CCW 6:30 JLO	19 5:00 AYC 5:15 Glory Hole Board Meeting 6:30 JLO	20 7 Men's Breakfast Noon ACOA 3:00 Guo Xia 4:00 Heartstrings 6:30 JLO	21 Noon Nursery Clean-up 3:00 Juneau String Ensemble	
22 10:00 Christian Education 11:00 Worship 1:00 Nursery Clean-up 5:30 Youth Group - p.4	23 11:00 Lifering 12 Bartlett Toddlers 5:15 JPPJ	24 2:30 Guo Xia Violin Lessons 5:00 AYC 7:00 Young Adult Group	25 12:00 ACOA 5:30 Chancel Choir	26 5:00 AYC	27 7 Men's Breakfast 12:00 ACOA 3:00 Guo Xia 4:00 Heartstrings	28 3:00 Juneau String Ensemble	
29 10:00 Christian Education 11:00 Worship 12:00 Deacons 5:30 Youth Group - p.4	30 11:00 Lifering 12 Bartlett Toddlers 5:15 JPPJ 6:00 ANS Camp 70	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> CPM - Committee on Property Management JPPJ - Juneau People for Peace & Justice ACOA - Adult Children of Alcoholics AYC Alaska Youth Choir ANS - Alaska Native Sisterhood </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Presbytery of Alaska Meeting September 27, 28 and 29 </div>			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> SPRC Staff Parrish Relations Committee JLO - Juneau Lyric Opera </div>

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

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Downtown at 11th and 'A' Street

T: (907) 586-3131

Email: nluc@ak.net

Pastor: Rev. Phil Campbell

E-mail: nlucpastor@ak.net

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.



Fall Worship schedule starts September 8

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.*