

Phil's Thoughts

September is always a time of renewed energy at church as we return to our school year **Sunday morning schedule of 10 a.m. Christian Education and 11 a.m. worship** that includes more frequent musical leadership from our fine singing groups. We begin **September 13** with classes for all ages and our worship will include communion. The theme of the service is "The Welcome Table," and in it we will celebrate God's inclusive love that is a growing mark of our church's ministry.

This year, even more than most, September brings exciting new beginnings of hospitality and service for all. You will find evidence of this throughout the newsletter as well as highlights here:

- We recently held a gathering for parents/guardians of the **church's children and youth** to explore how to offer more meaningful, interesting, relevant and engaging learning opportunities. We will continue to provide 10 a.m. Sunday classes (p. 3), and we are looking into mid-week possibilities for worship and education. In addition, we will continue gathering households with children for fun and fellowship as well as hold intergenerational learning and serving events. We seek to provide a church setting where all children are accepted, respected, and expected as we grow together in faith and service.
- There is a gathering after worship on **September 13** for those interested in our church's **Native Ministries** (p. 5). Plans for the year will be discussed and more ideas are welcome. One upcoming opportunity is a trip to Yakutat September 26, 27 when Tlingit Gospel Singers and I will lead worship at the Presbyterian Church on Sunday, gather for a community sing-along of Tlingit songs on Saturday evening, and meet with those in the Yakutat congregation to discuss how we can continue to share in ministry together. (p. 4)
- As announced in our June newsletter, the Church Council has been considering a decision to designate our church a **More Light/Reconciling** congregation which means extending a specific welcome to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and queer persons – those who have often felt unwanted at church. At its August meeting, the Council unanimously passed a More Light/Reconciling resolution (p. 8)
- The **Front Street Health Center** provides essential medical services in Juneau for homeless persons and others with in our community with limited income. Front Street needs additional funding in order to maintain and expand its services. One funding source is Medicaid expansion which our Community Opportunities Committee hopes will soon come to pass in our state despite the opposition of some in the legislature. Another is an upcoming \$100,000 fundraising campaign that the clinic will

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Youth News



Hello to the congregation at Northern Light United Church! My name is Summer Putman, a member of the Cooperative Youth Group, and a member of Northern Light! In early August, I (along with Melissa Engel and three other youth) got the amazing opportunity to attend the Gather at the River conference in San Antonio, Texas. I would first off just like to thank everyone for their generous donations that made it possible for all five of us to attend. I am very happy that I went and am excited to tell everyone a little bit of what the experience of going to the conference was like.

It was hosted by Travis Park UMC right in the heart of downtown San Antonio, which was really exciting because there was so much to see and do. Everyone at the conference was very nice and welcoming to everyone else. At every worship the room was FILLED with God's love expressed from a very diverse community of God's children (gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual and straight children of God that feel called for social action in their communities).

Speakers from every cor-

ner of the globe came to talk with the congregation about their experiences with finding their identities and their voices for action. The musicians made the room come alive with their music and choice of songs that made the congregation feel connected with one another.

Along with the worship, we took part in different workshops that taught me a lot about not only the Church, but also about myself and my identity and my part in the LGBTQ+ community. And as a youth, I got to also be a part of the special youth program that made me feel that I am ready to take action to change the Church and the world by speaking up about injustice for the LGBTQ+ community.

I made many lifelong friends being a part of the youth program. I know I have a safe circle of people that I can talk with about my journey and struggles in life. We all talk to each other in an on-going Facebook chat every day, which is an amazing resource for advice. But I'm not limited to only youth opinions. I also made adult friends at this conference which is another great resource for

me.

As a whole, the Gather at the River conference exceeded my expectations and I will never forget what I learned there. I hope and pray that one day the United Methodist Church can be as welcoming and loving as the people at that conference are to all of God's children.

September Youth Calendar

6-7 (Labor Day) Fall Retreat at Eagle River United Methodist Camp

2 PM Sunday-Lunch Monday

13 8th-12th grades: Mission Trip Information Meeting 4:00 PM

Sunday Gathering 5:15-7:15 PM

20 8th-12th grades: Mission Trip Meeting 4:30 PM

Sunday Gathering 5:15-7:15 PM

27 Feeding the Hungry of Juneau: Glory Hole Meal 4:30-6:30 PM

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End of Summer Cook-out

The kids have gone back to school and the blustery fall weather has arrived. But summer's not quite over yet! Join us for one last celebration of summer and fellowship.

Come celebrate the end of summer by joining us for a **COOKOUT AT SANDY BEACH ON**

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6TH AFTER OUR 10 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE.

We will gather at Savikko Park Shelter 1. Hot dogs, burgers, buns, drinks and condiments will be provided. You are invited to bring a side dish, chips, dessert or other item to share. You can sign up on the bulle-

tin board in the Fellowship Hall or contact the church office at 586-3131 or nluc@ak.net regarding what you can bring and to indicate if you can help cook or provide transportation for those needing a ride to the cookout. Please spread the word and plan to join the fun. Rain or shine!

Sunday School and Fall Schedule begin September 13 -more teachers sought

On Sunday, September 13 we will return to 11 a.m. worship that will continue throughout the 2015-16 school year. That Sunday also marks the beginning of **10 a.m. Christian Education classes for all ages.** Our lineup includes:

Nursery care will be offered in the nursery room downstairs

Pre-K thru 2nd grade will meet in the large classroom downstairs

3rd – 5th grade will meet in Room 8, the room under the stairs on the lower level

Middle School will gather in Room 9 off the Fellowship Hall

High School will be up in the loft above the kitchen.

The Adult Bible class will hold for the in the Skuse Room inside the 11th Street entrance.

The Adult class will start the fall with a wrap up of last spring's study on the letters of the Apostle Paul. The study is supplemented by the book, *The First Paul*, by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. As we go to press, curricula for the other classes is being finalized. Our Christian

education for children and youth is focused on how we live as followers of Jesus rather than emphasizing content mastery per se.

This year's teachers include Teresa Campbell, Anne Standerwick, Joy Lyon, John Pugh, Peggy Barnhill, and Laura Doogan.

We are still **recruiting teachers! If you are interested in teaching, have questions, ideas, etc., or need more information**, please contact Pastor Phil, nlucpastor@ak.net, or 586-3131.

WE ARE STILL RECRUITING TEACHERS! IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TEACHING, HAVE QUESTIONS, IDEAS, ETC., OR NEED MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR PHIL, NLUCPASTOR@AK.NET, OR 586-3131.

Community of Christian Women news

Please join us on **Saturday September 19** for a special program lead by Teresa Campbell called **“Spiritual Practices for Busy People.”** She will help us explore prayer and meditation in its many forms. The class is from 9:30 to noon in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

Don't forget the **Annual Gathering of Alaska**

United Methodist Women October 9-11 Willow, Alaska. The theme is: “You Raise Me Up.” Part of each annual gathering is devoted to mission outreach. Carol Barril has information about early registration, which ends September 15th, and other activities planned for the gathering.

Save the Date: **Annual Bazaar** is Saturday No-

vember 14. Now is the time to begin those hand made projects for sale at the bazaar including sewing, knitting, wood working, jam and jelly. We'll also need helpers to set up on Friday prior to the event as well as on Saturday. Contact Carol Barril for more information.

Fellowship with Yakutat Presbyterian Church

Tlingit Gospel Singers and Pastor Phil to lead worship there Sept. 27

Yakutat Presbyterian Church, a small congregation in our Presbytery, has been without a pastor for over a year. Our church has been exploring how we can partner with them to share ministry in Southeast Alaska. Some Sundays the Yakutat congregation has joined us by phone for worship. (Yakutat lacks sufficient internet bandwidth to view the livestream of our service.)

In order to deepen ties, one of our singing groups, Tlingit Gospel Singers, and our pastor, Phil, will go to Yakutat at the end of the month to lead worship, share in fellowship and singing, and visit with members of the church and community to discover more ways we can work together and maintain an ongoing relationship. Most of the group will fly to Yakutat on Saturday, September 26, and fly back to Juneau on Sunday evening, the 27th. For worship that Sunday at Northern Light, Phil will be on the phone from Yakutat to

preach the sermon. (He did this once from the Sitka airport when weather forced the plane he was on to overhead, and it worked pretty well!)

The weekend of our visit will be busy in Yakutat as there is a basketball tournament and health fair so travel arrangements need to be made soon. Yakutat church leaders are working on housing for us. If you are interested in being part of the trip, or wish to learn more, please contact the church office, 586-3131, nlucpastor@ak.net.

Native Ministries

The Native Ministries Committee (NMC) invites those interested to a **meeting** after church **September 13** to make plans for the 2015-16 program year.

The mission statement of Native Ministries of Northern Light Church is: "Celebrating and sharing the ministry, healing, unity, diversity, music, and languages of Alaska's First People." One part of Native Ministries is the Tlingit Gospel Singers, which is anyone who is interested in learning and singing hymns in Tlingit, mostly those translated by Vesta Dominicks and printed in our little red hymnals.

Through the Soboleff fund and grants from the

Presbytery, Native Ministries has the blessing of funds to carry out our mission in various ways. In 2014 NMC funded grants in support of Native food and conversation in 11 senior centers throughout Southeast, provided funds to Boys on the Run, Haven House, Camp Champ, and Tlingit language efforts. NMC also volunteers in the life of the church, such as holding a very successful fundraiser to contribute \$2,700 to the roof project, hosting brunch, and singing in services. As a group we are committed not only to enriching NLUC with diversity, but also outreach to the small, struggling churches in South-

east. In previous years NMC has helped fund travel to share fellowship and music in Sitka, Ketchikan, and Hoonah. Plans are underway to visit the congregation in Yakutat, who is seeking ways to grow their church and has sought our support.

As we revisit and renew our vision, mission and goals, NMC invites participation of members of NLUC in discussion and planning. The committee members include chair Barbara Searls, Pattie Adkisson, Freda Westman, KJ Metcalf, Jane Ginter (recording secretary), June Degnan, Lillian Austin, and Pastor Phil Campbell.

NATIVE MINISTRIES
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Weekend Food Program

Again this year we will provide weekend food bags. 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 to eat carrots. Money do-

nations can be checks made to NLUC with "Weekend food program" in the memo line. Over 60 food bags are packed **10 AM on Thursdays**. Helpers welcome. Thanks!

Northern Light seeks contributions for community challenge grant to support Front Street Clinic

Our Church Council has authorized a challenge grant for an upcoming fundraising initiative by the Front Street Community Health Center (aka the Front Street Clinic) that will launch later this fall. Front Street’s goal will be to raise \$100,000 by the end of the year in order to assure that critically needed medical and behavioral health services remain available for our neighbors who have lim-

ited income, many of whom are homeless. We hope to present Front Street with **\$45,000 as a matching grant to jumpstart the campaign.** The Church Council has authorized \$35,000 (5,000 from our mission budget and 30,000 in already pledged donations including a 25,000 anonymous gift), and we are seeking another **\$10,000 in gifts from NLUC members and**

friends. This match will generate up to \$90,000 toward the Front Street goal!

You can help by making a tax deductible contribution for street payable to NLUC, with “Front Street” in the memo line.

Read more about Front Street, its history, needs and plans in the background piece that follows.

Juneau Front Street Community Health Center Provide services essential for our community—

background and rationale for funding support that our Community Opportunities Committee wants you to know!

BUT WE CAN'T
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It has been suggested that sandwiched between South Franklin's upscale emerald and diamond stores are found Juneau's true gems - the spirit and hope of the clients of the Glory Hole homeless shelter. NLUC has prepared and served meals twice a month at the Glory Hole for years - a commitment that the church takes seriously and willingly and as a labor of love. We get high praise and thanks for our meals – something like 3 or 4 stars on the Homeless Shelter Food Review chart (if such ever existed).

But we can't fool ourselves, we can and should be stronger advocates and servants of those poor and underserved.

Sometimes an opportunity just drops in your lap. Opportunities come in all shapes and sizes and whether it be a porcupine or an elephant, if it's in your lap don't ignore it – and don't be surprised if this prickly thing turns out to be a blessing.

Health care access challenges are tightly woven with being poor and homeless. Lack of health care often causes loss of housing and employment and loss of housing and employment often causes lack of health care. This is a vicious spiral that can

Continued on next page

Front Street continued

easily lead to debilitating illness and untold suffering and worse. Studies show that people who are homeless experience an alarming rate of cancer and other maladies, and that if early diagnosis and treatment is available the outcomes are much better.

The newly formed Community Opportunities Committee (formally the Mission Committee) last year identified the Front Street Clinic for people who are homeless as a project we wanted the church to support.

The clinic was sponsored by SEARHC until 18 months ago when they announced they would have to drop their sponsorship due to their loss of grant income. The clinic was faced with closure unless a new sponsor was found. None was found so the community formed a new non-profit corporation to keep the clinic open - the only homeless health clinic in SE Alaska. The new clinic board waded into deep water as they worked to staff the clinic and engage in complex billing and medical program compliance.

After a challenging year of operation as the Front Street Community Health Center the clinic gained its footing by partnering with the non-profit Alaska Island Community Services Corporation, which will provide management and billing services.

Although many of the first year's problems have been resolved and a sustainable model has been adopted by the clinic, there is a pressing need for \$100,000 of locally raised dollars to meet this year's share of matching funds for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Grant and provide a small reserve. The federal HRSA grant is essential to keeping the clinic open as are other grants for which the Alaska Island Community Services is applying on behalf of the clinic. **But so is our financial support.**

To date, NLUC has assembled \$35,000 for Front Street -- \$5,000 from the church mission budget along with \$30,000 from non-church budget funds (Juneau Community Foundation FASD gift and an anonymous gift from a congregational member). **We hope to raise another \$10,000 from members and friends of our congregation to give to Front Street so that they can start the community fundraising with a \$45,000 match.**

This short term funding crisis can be a blessing for the clinic and the community as we get to know each other and learn about how interdependent we truly are. A healthier community is a stronger community. Thank you for your voice and for financial contributions and other support you may choose to make for the Front Street Clinic.

In addition to immediate and ongoing donations from the Juneau community, expansion of Medicaid is a necessary component of sustainability for the clinic. Our collective voices are important to support this expansion. The Community Opportunities Committee urges you to contact the Governor, the legislature, and the media to declare your support.

Please consider supporting the Juneau Front Street homeless clinic with your voice for expanding Medicaid and a financial contribution.

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Council Resolution declares Northern Light a More Light/Reconciling Congregation

As reported in the June newsletter, the Church Council has been considering naming our congregation a More Light/Reconciling church. More Light (Presbyterian) and Reconciling (United Methodist) are designations that congregations of our denominations use to declare their welcome for those who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or queer. Feedback from the congregation was sought regarding this proposed action, and very little was received. Of the few responses, almost all were supportive of More Light and Reconciling. Most see this step as consistent with action the Council took in 2011 that affirmed that candidates for ordained church offices would be considered without regard to sexual orientation. At its August meeting, the Council unanimously voted to declare our church a More Light/Reconciling congregation.

Although all people have always been welcome at our church, a More Light/Reconciling proclamation is a public statement that makes it clear that “all” includes LGBTQ persons who historically have not been accepted into the full life and leadership of many churches.

As a part of voting these designations, the Council endorsed the national Presbyterian More Light Resolution that reads:

“Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality, the mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society.”

In keeping with United Methodist Reconciling practice, the Council also adopted a statement of inclusion and welcome for our con-

gregation. It affirms our welcome of all people:

Convinced that all people are created in the image of the loving God, and that “in Christ there is no longer Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for all are one . . .” (Galatians 3: 28), Northern Light United Church, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the United Methodist Church, declares itself to be a More Light/Reconciling congregation. We welcome people of all ages, races, classes, abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities into the life and leadership of our church, and we commit to advocating for justice and full inclusion of all people in both church and society.

If you have questions or would like more information about our More Light and Reconciling commitments, please contact Anne Standerwick, church moderator, or Phil Campbell, pastor.

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Congregation's August Giving May Be Under Budget

I am always incredibly grateful for the tremendous amount of fiscal support Northern Light receives from its congregation. For the steadfast generosity of all of you, THANKS!

Although, at the time of this writing, there is still a week left in August, to date congregational giving this month in support of the church's operational budget has been less than what it was budgeted to be. Actual receipts for operations have totaled about \$23,400 while the budgeted amount is about \$24,200. Giving in August (so far) has meant that on a January-1-to-

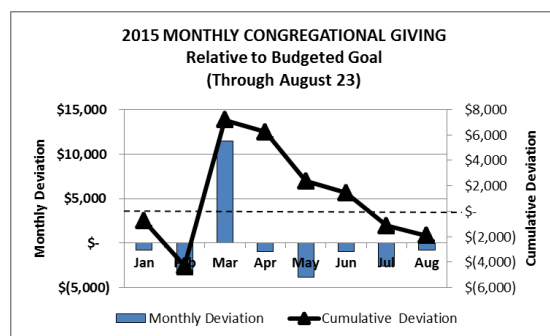
August-24 basis, total giving is about \$2,000 less than what it was budgeted to be.

This month's pattern of being slightly under budget has been the prevailing pattern for 2015. As the bars in the adjacent graph illustrate, in every month except March our congregational giving has been under-budget by amounts varying between \$800 and \$4,000. The graph also illustrates that during March giving exceeded our budgeted expectations by over \$11,000.

The cumulative effect of our monthly giving pattern is illustrated in the

graph by the solid line. In March our year-to-date giving was about \$7,000 over what it was budgeted to be at that point in time. Since then, our monthly giving patterns of under-budgeted giving have eliminated the year-to-date, over-budget total. During July our cumulative giving dropped below what it was budgeted to be. So far in August it has dropped even more.

Jim Alter,
Treasurer



Phil's Thoughts continued

launch later this year with the aid of a challenge grant from our church. You are invited to contribute to the challenge grant fund. (p. 6)

- Again this school year, we will offer **weekend food bags** for students at Riverbend Elementary school who receive free or reduced price lunches during the week. (p. 5). We are also working with other churches and groups toward the goal of offering weekend food for students at every school in Juneau.

As a new program year begins I look forward to participating with you in the many ways we "set the welcome table" for all in our church and community. This is an exciting time to be in ministry together. Thanks be to God for the opportunities we share.

Birthdays



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

Thank You's

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, Carol Barril, Margaret MacKinnon, Bob Coghill

*Greeters/ushers for August: Karen Peska, Bob Coghill, Nico and Susan Bus, June Degnan

*Tom Perkins, Jean Overstreet, Janet and Don Kussart, Alan Akiyama who assembled the August newsletter

*Breakfast/Brunch Providers for August: Stella, Kilian and Lauren Heine, Tlingit Gospel Singers, Linda Miller, Marion Gotschall, Esther Millea, Melody Millard, Teresa Campbell, Karen Dillon, Margaret MacKinnon, Mary Becker, Kristy Germain

*Flower providers for August: Janet Kussart, Freda Westman, Esther Millea, the Alters, Carol Barril

*Bruce Morley for trimming trees at the church and the manse

*Karen Dillon and Judy Knight for weeding the church beds

*To all who donated food and worked in the kitchen for Catherine Alter's reception

*Everyone who donated plastic grocery bags for the weekend food program. More are needed for this school year -you can bring them to church at any time

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.

SEPTEMBER 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 12 ACOA	3 9:30 Lectionary Study	4 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons 4 Heartstrings 4:30 Tlingit Dance	5
6 Last day of Sunday Worship Schedule 10 Worship Cookout at Sandy Beach - p. 3	7 11 LifeRing 12 Bartlett Toddlers 6 ANS Camp 70	8 12 Interfaith Council 3 Violin Lessons	9 12 ACOA 5:30 Chancel Choir 7 Mudrooms	10 9:30 Lectionary Study 10 Weekend Food Program 5 Council	11 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons 4 Heartstrings 4:30 Tlingit Dance	12 9 Bartlett Dads
13 10 Christian Education 11 Worship 12 Native Ministries - p. 5	14 11 LifeRing 12 Bartlett Toddlers 5:15 JPPJ	15 3 Violin Lessons	16 12 ACOA 5:30 Chancel Choir	17 9:30 Lectionary Study 10 Weekend Food Program 5:15 Glory Hole Board Meeting	18 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons 4 Heartstrings 4:30 Tlingit Dance	19 9:30 Spiritual Practices for Busy People - p. 4
20 10 Christian Education 11 Worship	21 11 LifeRing 12 Bartlett Toddlers 5:15 JPPJ	22 3 Violin Lessons	23 12 ACOA 5:30 Chancel Choir	24 9:30 Lectionary Study 10 Weekend Food Program	25 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons 4 Heartstrings 4:30 Tlingit Dance	26 9 Girl Scout Training
27 10:30 Deacons 10 Christian Education 11 Worship	28 11 LifeRing 12 Bartlett Toddlers 5:15 JPPJ	29 3 Violin Lessons	30 12 ACOA 5:30 Chancel Choir			

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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.



*Last Day of Summer Worship Schedule
(10:00 Worship) and End of Summer Cook-
out, September 6—See page 3 for details*

*School Year Schedule starts September 13—See
page 3*

*No matter who you are,
no matter where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*