

Panhandle News

NOV-DEC 2010

FROM DAVID'S DESK

For what thanksgiving can we render to God for you, for all the joy which we feel for your sake before our God...? (1 Thessalonians 3:9)

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Thanksgiving permeates St. Paul's letter to the church at Thessalonika, for thanksgiving filled his heart whenever they came before his mind. He begins "We give thanks to God always for you all, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

'You all' for St. Paul was not a speech pattern from the American South, but expression and evidence of the way he could bring every face and person before God in prayer. And when Paul says 'constantly', he means it. The Christians in Thessalonika were dear to him, many converted by his preaching and nurtured and taught by Paul as their faith deepened. Paul calls them his hope and joy and glory – no wonder he gave such thanks.

Thanksgiving is far more than words or feeling. Like love and faith, it requires action to be full and alive. In the heart of his letter Paul asks "For what thanksgiving can we render to God for you, for all the joy which we feel for your sake before God?" Paul's question is our teacher as we approach Thanksgiving Day and look at the situation where God has placed us. What thanksgiving can we render? And 'render', after all, means doing something purposeful.

St. Paul trusted absolutely in the providence of God and the mission of Christ. God provides sufficiently for His people and His purpose, and a large measure of Paul's thanksgiving before God was reminding the Thessalonians of God's care and calling for them, and encouraging them in their faith. Paul prayed for them constantly, and he let them know that they were lifted up before the Lord. And St. Paul kept on traveling and preaching, living out the call that was his—the same call that brought him to Thessalonika in the first place.

We can do likewise. Knowing that everything we have has been entrusted to us by God for his purposes, we can encourage other Christians as they live out their calling in Christ. We can be disciplined in prayer for one another--as constantly as we are able--and we can tell others that we have lifted them before God. And, finally, we can be faithful in our own calling from Christ. The tool or opportunity that God gives us is often the best indication of the purpose He has for our life. Thanksgiving is doing.

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Jesus Christ for you", says St. Paul. Amen, and may God bless you,

David Hodel



Presbyters enjoy the amazing Petersburg hospitality!

L-R Sara Chambers (CBTL), Joyce Martin Emery (Synod), Gail Thibodeau (CBTL), Martha Zimmerman (Presbytery of AK)

Dale Bucich (below) arrived an Inquirer and left an official Du- buque seminary Candidate. Congratulations, Dale!



Rev. George Pasley (above, L) promises that, with God's help, he will do his best to fill the really big shoes left by the outgoing Stated Clerk.



Guy Warren and his wife, Peg, (above) are sent forth in prayer and blessing under Kake's healing blanket. The blanket was wrapped around many who were in need at the 2010 FPM, symbolizing both God's amazing love and the power of a strong network of praying churches in Southeast Alaska.



Guy (above, right) receives appreciation for his 18 years of service as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery in the form of a personalized Louisville Slugger bat (speak softly but carry a big stick?) and Almond Roca.



Sheryl Dennis (L, Skagway) and Rosie Fay (R, Kake) were beneficiaries of Jean Ellis' luxurious Petersburg hospitality.



Rev. John Zimmerman passed the Moderator's stole to Rev. Barbara Searls at the 2010 FPM (pictured here with wife, Martha).

This is only a summary of the actions taken. A full description of the changes will be found in the minutes of this meeting.

The Presbytery elected the following persons to the following Presbytery offices:

- **Synod Commissioner:** The Rev. Linda Wescott (2011), Elder Paul Wescott (Yakutat, 2013)
- **Presbytery Moderator Elect:** The Rev. Ron Horn
- **General Council:** Elder Mary Ann Kondro (Kake, 2013)
- **Representation:** Elder Isabella Brady (Sitka, 2013)
- **Committee on Ministry:** The Rev. Bob Carter, Elder Joyce Schultz (Petersburg), The Rev. Doug Dye (all 2013)
- **Nominations Committee:** The Rev. Bob Carter (2011), Elder Harriet Schirmer (Wrangell, 2013)
- **Committee Coordinators for 2010:**
 - COM: Elder Gail O'Dell (NLUC)
 - CPM: Elder Kathy Ruddy (CBTL)
 - Representation: The Rev. Bob Carter
 - Nominations: Harriet Schirmer (Wrangell)

The Presbytery updated the Manual of Administrative Operations:

- Deleted sections which described committees which no longer exist.
- Updated the responsibilities of the Moderator and Past Moderator to match those set up in the Presbytery By-Laws.
- Updated other sections to reflect actual current practice.
- With the establishment of a viable Hoonah Session, the Presbytery voted to dismiss the Hoonah Administrative Commission.
- The Presbytery ratified the decision to convert the Rev. David Dobler's position as Pastor to the Presbytery from half-time to full-time with a corresponding increase in his salary and benefit package.
- The Presbytery approved the congregation of the Northern Light United Church selling some rental properties they owned adjacent to the church.
- The Presbytery voted to NOT concur with General Assembly Amendment 10-1 (Form of Government).
- The Presbytery concurred with General Assembly Amendments, 10-B, 10-C, 10-D, 10-E, 10-F, 10-G, 10-H, 10-I, 10-J, 10-K, 10-L, 10-M, 10-N and 10-O.
- The Presbytery voted to NOT concur with General Assembly Amendment 10-A. (Amending G-6.0106b).
- The Presbytery voted to NOT concur with the adoption of Amendment 10-2 (Belhar Confession).
- The Presbytery approved Dale Bucich of Chapel by the Lake as a candidate to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.
- The Presbytery commissioned Elder Nettie Covalt of Wrangell as a Commissioned Lay Pastor.
- The Presbytery approved a 2011 budget and set the Presbytery's portion of the per capita rate at 35.04. Including the Synod and General Assembly portions the Per Capita rate for 2011 will be \$47.00.
- The Presbytery heard a report from Haines youth, Hunter Badgley on a mission trip he took with 8 others from Haines to Kenya. The Presbytery also heard a report from Guy & Peg Warren on their trip to Port-au-Prince Haiti.

once he wrestled sheep,
now he wrestles the book of order,
our stated clerk from Ketchikan,
catch him if you can



The Rev. George Pasley is the pastor of Ketchikan Presbyterian Church and works with youth at the local detention center. He is also the administrator of Presbytery's new Facebook page and continues to grace us with his divinely inspired original poetry and worship resources.

Sara Chambers joins the Presbytery of Alaska as its new office manager, taking Cyndi Gleason's place. Cyndi's new ventures include keeping busy as the new office manager/bookkeeper for the local Bullwinkles Pizza Parlor.



Since she already serves as Chapel by the Lake's Worship and Music Director, Sara's commute is a simple walk up the stairs. Since you may not know her, and since she is not nearly as creative as George, here's some info:

Sara owns nonprofit management company Chambers Management and has over a decade of professional experience in high-level nonprofit administration. Sara is currently the co-chair for United Way of Southeast Alaska's annual workplace giving campaign. She has served as a City and Borough of Juneau Assembly member and has a lifetime of service as a nonprofit board member of local, state, and national organizations. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Middle Tennessee State University and is currently in the Commissioned Lay Pastor program. Sara also wrangles a house full of men—including husband Mike, sons Noah (7) and Jake (2) and golden retriever, Douglas.

JOB OPENING: YOUTH DIRECTOR

Northern Light United Church seeks youth director for middle school and high school programs. Immediate opening. Part-time/full-time negotiable. Send letter of interest and resume to Rev. Phil Campbell, Northern Light United Church, 400 W. 11th St., Juneau, AK 99801, or nluc@ak.net.

PRAYING FOR MERCY FIRST

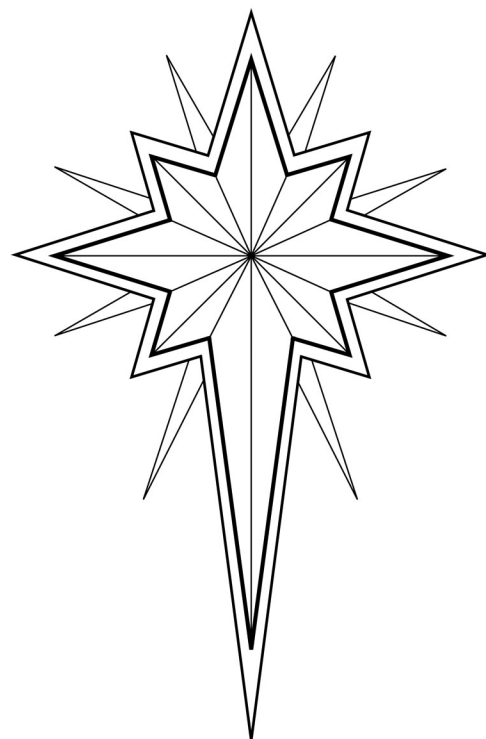
Perhaps the thing to do
Is not sleep
In heavenly peace,
But to live working for peace.

Perhaps the thing to do
Is not sleep tight,
But to hold tight to righteousness
From morning until night.

Perhaps the thing to do
Is not sleep sweetly,
But to live firmly for justice,
Playfully for joy,
Sweetly for love of all.

Yes, it is a hard thing to do-
Therefore sleep,
Praying for mercy first,
Prepared to receive grace
In the form of dreams
Noble, brave and new.

George R. Pasley, October 19, 2010, Ketchikan, AK



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Churches should have received packets of information about the 2010 Christmas Joy Offering. Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering are divided evenly, half going to support Presbyterian racial ethnic education and half to assistance programs of the Board of Pensions.

If you need more envelopes, coin boxes or information, please contact PCUSA at 800-524-2612 or visit www.pcusa.org/cjoffering.

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