

# PanHandle News

JAN-FEB 2010

## FROM DAVID'S DESK

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

*'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'*                      *Matthew 2:1-6*



Epiphany—"the showing forth"—commemorated by the story of the wise men from the East, celebrates the revelation of the infant Jesus as the Messiah. "Where is He for whom we are searching?" was their question, and the Scriptures pointed to Bethlehem. Oh Come, let us adore Him!

The birth of the Savior could not be hid, any more than a blazing star could be concealed. And the coming of the Savior of the world is news that must not be kept hidden, but proclaimed. Epiphany, then, is a time of our deepest joy and burning passion—how else could we respond to so holy an event.

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In earlier years the prophet Isaiah had a personal experience of being in the very presence of God, and from that hour for the rest of his life Isaiah proclaimed the word of the Lord. So great was the grace that covered the gulf between sin-sick Isaiah and the Holy One of Israel, that Isaiah could only respond by offering himself as God's messenger:

"And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'" *Isaiah 6:8*

In the generations since, God has called and many have responded like Isaiah, 'Here am I. Send me.' In the archives of our state is a photograph of three men, all staunch Presbyterians, who likewise heard and so responded. What came of their devotion?



Alaska State Library—  
Historical Collections

In this photo Rev. Sheldon Jackson is seated, and he heard God's call to mission service and followed that call from the Mississippi River to Alaska. Standing are Peter Simpson and Rev. Edward Marsden, both Alaska Natives. Volumes could be written about the three men—and those many other men and women who spread the Good News in Southeast Alaska—but in this Epiphany season I am remembering two boats, the MARIETTA and the PRINCETON HALL. Edward Marsden, the first Alaska Native to graduate from seminary and be ordained, named his boat for Marietta College, where he studied, and used his boat to spread the gospel among the villages and fish camps of Southeast. Peter Simpson, master boatwright, oversaw the building of the M/V PRINCETON HALL, which served for decades in the Presbyterian ministry of Southeast. Three lives given over, two boats dedicated, all to proclaim the birth of the only Savior. And how do we respond in our day?

*David Hobbes*



- *Jan 18—Holiday, Martin Luther King Day*
- *Feb 3—General Council Mtg*
- *Feb 11—Terms of Call Due*
- *Please share your meeting dates...*
- *Feb 15—Holiday, Presidents' Day*
- *Feb 17—Ash Wednesday*
- *Feb 26—PYT Traveler Info due*

## PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM



2010

Official Registrar:

Kristina Maddox of

NLUC . 586-3131 or

[nluc@pci.net](mailto:nluc@pci.net)

July 10-14, 2010 @

Purdue University

PYT Website: [www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org)

## WORKGROUPS UPDATE

Our Volunteer Workgroup Coordinator Paul Spangler has shared recently that he has workgroups that are interested in Alaska for the summer of 2010...but we didn't receive ANY Church Request for Workgroup Forms submitted (note form to your right)...Does your church want a workgroup for this summer?

Please complete the form to your right (two sides) that was inserted in our newsletter. (let your eyes roam to your right...) and Paul can share another update in our March-April Newsletter.

## GEORGE'S POEM

### THE ONE WHO TURNS THE EARTH

The one who turns the earth knows  
It can be turned for death,  
Or turned for life,  
The labor is quite similar  
Between burial and planting.



The one who keeps midnight watch  
Over flocks and herds to make assistance  
To she who labors knows  
That birth is a risky venture.



The one who plants a seed  
And prays for harvest knows  
That harvest is a death well-filled.

So as we celebrate a birth awe-filled  
Let us not forget that it was indeed  
A risky venture,  
Well-lived yet claimed by death.




Nor let us forget that the death,  
tragic,  
Was yet more wonder filled than the birth,  
For it produced a life,  
Reaped and shared with all.

Then let us labor,  
Turning at our heart  
Both for burial and for birth.

George R. Pasley  
Ketchikan, AK December 16, 2009  
[www.ketchikanpresbyterian.org](http://www.ketchikanpresbyterian.org)

# CHURCH FORM FOR WORKGROUPS

|   |   |
|---|---|
|  | <p><b>Presbytery of Alaska</b><br/>11024-A Auke Lake Way<br/>Juneau, AK 99801<br/>Telephone: 907/780-6100 – Fax: 907/780-4017<br/>888/780-6101 Within Alaska<br/><a href="mailto:presbyt1@alaska.net">presbyt1@alaska.net</a></p> |
|---|---|

## CHURCH REQUEST FOR WORK GROUP - SUMMER 2010

Please use one form for each requested work group. If you have questions, please direct them to the Workgroup Coordinator Paul Spangler (his contact information is on back of the form).

**FORMS DUE to Paul 3/1/10 please**

Church : \_\_\_\_\_

Project Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone & Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Request for  
Summer 2010: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROJECT(S) DESCRIPTION: (Be specific. Use additional sheets if necessary.)**

**MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

**TOOLS REQUIRED:** (List any special tools, e.g. for carpet installing, plumbing, sheet rock, etc.) Will the church supply all tools?

**WILL THE CHURCH PROVIDE ALL MATERIALS?** Is the work group asked to bring or send some materials, or to assist in their purchase?

**INDICATE THE MATERIALS TO BE PURCHASED AND ESTIMATED COST:**

**SIZE OF WORK GROUP REQUIRED FOR THIS PROJECT?**

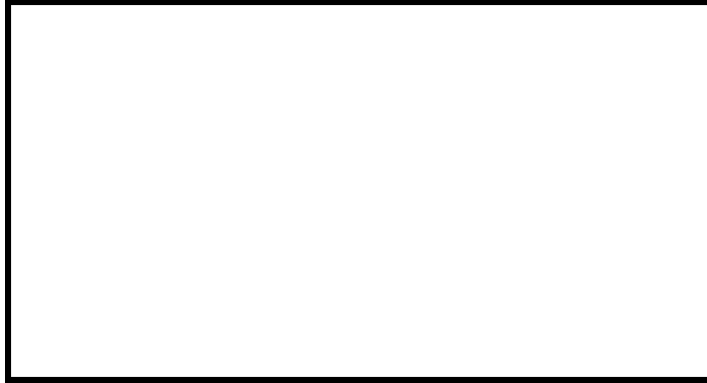
**SPECIAL TRAINING OR TALENTS REQUIRED FOR THE WORK GROUP FOR THIS PROJECT:**

**WHAT WILL THE CHURCH PROVIDE FOR THE WORK GROUP? (Kitchen, showers, sightseeing, fishing, etc.)**

**PREFERRED DATES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_





Presbytery of Alaska  
11024-a Auke Lake Way  
Juneau, AK 99801

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OF ALASKA**

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