

May
2009

United Protestant (Presbyterian) Church

Church of a Thousand Trees



The Matanuska Susitna Orchestra Presents:

“Simply Strings” A Spring Concert

Featuring the works of:

Edvard Grieg, Giacomo Puccini, Gioachino Rossini,

Felix Mendelssohn, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Gabriel Fauré

Wednesday, May 13th, 7 p.m.

At the United Protestant Church

Admission is free

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Family Promise News – A New Staff Member

When you stop into the Family Promise Office or call in, you may be greeted by our new office assistant under the State funded MASST program, Sally Hermon. Here is what Sally has to say about herself in introduction:

"I have been in Alaska since 1947. I was born in Crystal Falls, Michigan. I was raised in Eska, Alaska and my father worked at Jonesville coal mine. The mine closed in 1962 and we then moved to Cascade Creek where my dad worked for the State Dept. of Transportation. My mom played the piano at Victory Bible Camp. I graduated from Palmer High School and attended Elite Hospitality Training Center to work in the Tourist Industry...you may have talked to me at the Palmer Visitor Center where I gave out information and directions to visitors about Palmer and the state of Alaska. I attend MatSu Assembly of God. I enjoy taking pictures of Alaskan flowers and oil painting, also hiking at Hatcher Pass. I have three wonderful sons and three granddaughters, ages fourteen, nine, and two. I enjoy our beautiful mountains. In my eyes, I call Alaska God's Country. My goal is to keep helping people, so being employed at Family Promise fits my mission-providing shelter, meals, and case management to families without housing and helping families believe in themselves. And anything is possible through faith and staying positive to keep moving forward."

Welcome to Family Promise Sally!

Graduate Recognition

We are wanting to collect names of all those related to our church family who are graduating this year – both high school and college. Please call the church office to let us know. Graduation Sunday will be celebrated on May 17th. We will have a special coffee hour for our graduates.

Here is a list of some we know are graduating this year:

High School Graduates:

- Beckie Behm Signe Johnson Ashley Webb
- Lauren Guinotte Lance LaRue Zoe Rozzi

College Graduates:

Sonja Brekke — BS in Business Administration

Congratulations to all these graduates!!

Ladies Book Club

This month's selection is:

The Gurnsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society.

May 21st at Helenmae Wiederkehr's home.

Looking ahead:

June 18th: The Little Giant of Aberdeen County
At Krystyna Colberg's home.

July 16th: To Kill A Mockingbird
At Tiffany Baker's home.

We have other Christian Fiction Books available, and you are welcome to enjoy them. You will find them in the church library (at the bottom of the stairs) on the Ladies Book Club Shelf.

Vacation Bible School July 6-10, 2009

Contact Rachel at: rachelb@mtaonline.net

Planning for VBS 2009 is in full swing. We are looking forward to a great week of learning about God's love through Bible stories, games, science, music, and more. We are especially looking for volunteers to help with the Preschool and Snacks. We also need Crew Leaders (high school students) and Jr. Crew Leaders (middle school students). Soon we will be asking for donations of supplies for crafts and snacks so watch the Sunday bulletin! If you want to volunteer or have questions, contact Rachel Brown-Chidsey at 907-355-7328 or rachelb@mtaonline.net.

Volunteers Needed!



Sunday School

Summer Sunday school will only be for adults starting at 9:00am. Preschool through High School age will be taking a break from our normal weekly Sunday school this summer. **BUT** each month we will have a Sunday school breakfast at 9:00am before church just to stay connected and to enjoy one another's fellowship. We will celebrate birthdays with Pete the Pig for the month. Families are invited to these breakfasts as well. We will send out postcards to remind our Sunday School.

Summer Youth Institute (disclaimer: this article written by a delighted dad.)

An Honor For Two Of Our Youths

Sara Reed and Jeanette Carrick have been chosen to attend the Summer Youth Institute (SYI) at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. For two weeks in July, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS) focuses its attention on 28 Presbyterian youth who are entering their senior year in high school. Founded over a dozen years ago to focus on developing the future leadership of the Church, the small group is gathered for two weeks at the seminary. Professors spend time with the youth. Staff called to this particular endeavor spend time with them. Graduates of the Summer Youth Institute spend time with them. No other continuing education happens at the seminary during those two weeks – the 28 youth are the focus. Jeanette and Sara are the first two Alaskans to have been selected, but (certainly by providence) one of the first graduates of SYI moved to Palmer and our congregation this past year. Samantha Kallas began attending our congregation at about the time Sara and Jeanette were awaiting a response to their applications to SYI. The SYI program director stays in contact with each of the SYI graduates – she is still in close contact with Samantha.

Fred Rogers (remember Mr. Rogers?) was a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He participated in the forming and running of SYI until his death a few years ago. Samantha remembers him fondly.

The Summer Youth Institute was founded by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. This SYI's 13th year. Originally one week long, it is now funded in a large part by The Lilly Endowment, and because of the Lilly Endowment, it has become a two week experience. All expenses (except airfare) for the two weeks are paid for by The Lilly Endowment.

From SYI's website: "Thanks to a generous grant from The Lilly Endowment, the Summer Youth Institute, or "SYI" as it is known by participants and staff, was expanded to a two week program beginning in the summer of 2000. Judging by the response of participants, the increased time frame and staff commitment has done much to enhance the program. SYI has served as a remarkable opportunity to introduce youth to ministry as a vocation and to theological study as an academic and spiritual endeavor. The hope is that students, whether they feel called to full-time church work or not, will leave the event with a sense of their vocation as Christians, understanding that their faith will be reflected in whatever work they do. They will have a greater understanding for the work of the Church and thus may be more involved members of their own congregations. Forming and reforming as individuals in community through study, worship, mission, and ultimate frisbee, the scholars engage one another, faculty, seminarians and SYI alums. Because of the Institute's emphasis on intentional Christian community, SYI provides a safe space to grow in faith while wrestling with real world questions where canned answers aren't accepted."

(Again, from a delighted "uncle" and dad) *Way to go, Sara and Jeanette!*

Birthdays

Bill Klebesadel	5/1	Dean LaRue	5/9	Matt Stichick	5/15
Winston Laughlin	5/2	Howard Burger	5/10	Glenn Massay	5/17
Nancy MacFarlane	5/2	Jan Burger	5/10	Bruce Mosher	5/19
Chris Hughes	5/3	Roy Goodman	5/10	Carmen Keirn	5/24
Cheyenne Frantzich	5/4	Zoe Rozzi	5/1	Sonja Brekke	5/26
Penny Mosher	5/7	Sara Reed	5/11	John Schreiber	5/29
Rolf Dagg	5/8	Katy Guinotte	5/14		
Katie Smeenk	5/8	Eugene Yerbich	5/14		

Anniversaries

Jack and Mary Gannon 5/8

We wish you happiness on your special day. *Please* contact the Church Office if we've missed putting your name on our list. Or if you are new and would like to add your name to our list.

Financial Stewardship

Budgeted income as of 4/30/09	\$72,440
Actual income as of 4/30/09	\$60,285
Difference	(\$12,155)

Worship Stewardship

5/3	Greeter	Kiana Till & Katie Smeenk
	Refreshment	Maureen Stevenson
	Communion Wash-Up	
	Nursery	Sami Wallace & Nicole Smeenk
5/10	Greeter	Sandra Wagenius
	Refreshment	The Smeenks
	Candle Lighters	Grace Ivey & Cynthia Yerbich
	Nursery	Mariah & Jessie Yerbich
5/17	Greeter	The Erbeys
	Refreshment	The Erbeys
	Candle Lighters	Augie Yerbich & Aurora Till
	Nursery	Maria Benson
5/24	Greeter	George Crowther
	Refreshment	Redona Grazio
	Candle Lighters	
	Nursery	Eva & Krystyna Colberg
5/31	Greeter	The Colbergs
	Refreshment	
	Candle Lighters	
	Nursery	Deb Melton

Church Directories

THEY'RE HERE!

Copies of the 2009 Church Directory are available. Please pick one up after church. If you would like a CD copy, please contact Luz at the church office.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who made this directory a reality:

Helen Woodings
 Maria Talasz
 Bruce & Linda Berget
 Joe Lawton
 Carmen Keirn
 Bonnie Allen
 Jason Collins

**United Protestant
(Presbyterian) Church**

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Palmer, AK
Permit #28

713 S. Denali St.
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Phone: 907-745-3822
Fax: 907-745-3852
E-mail: upchurch@mtaonline.net
TimUPC@gmail.com
lrcarrick@mtaonline.net

Co-Pastor Leisa Carrick 715-4944
Co-Pastor Tim Carrick 715-4945

*****Mailing Address*****

Return Service Requested



Church Work Day

Please mark your calendar for the church work day. We have scheduled it on Saturday, May 16th, beginning at 9:00am. David Leonard will have a list of things needing to be done. Bring your gloves, rakes, and favorite cleaning supplies. It is a job for more than just a handful of workers, so we hope you will join us. Make it a family event. We will have many visitors this summer and we want our place looking great when they come!

Worship

Summer Worship schedule begins Sunday, June 7th, at 10:00am.

VBS Dates

Monday through Friday, July 6th-10th will be our Vacation Bible School. It will be for preschool through those who have just finished 5th grade. Middle school and high school youth can join in for VBS by being helpers and leaders.

Church Camp

There are flyers for Bingle Camp and Victory Bible Camp for children and youth to attend this summer. You can also go on the internet and register for these camps.