

Yukon Presbyterians for EarthCare

Presbytery of Yukon,
Presbyterian Church, USA

26-Feb-16

Edition 1; Volume 1

Fairbanks Green Coalition

Things are happening in Fairbanks!

The Fairbanks Community is not going willfully into the dark night of climate chaos. We have galvanized as a community in the newly formed "Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition" with the aim of bringing about a partnership between the government, the scientists, the recyclers, the activists and the faith community. Education is a major driver in our movement as we sought to bring people together to hear the witness in films like "This Changes Everything," panel discussions around the Paris Climate Talks and support events like the UAF public lectures on Sea Ice Change and the effects on Arctic wildlife.

The ecumenical community has bonded together including concerned advocates

We have galvanized as a community in the newly formed "Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition" with the aim of bringing about a partnership between the government, the scientists, the recyclers, the activists and the faith community.

from Presbyterians, Catholics, Quakers and the Universalist denominations. Our current goal is to continue to educate our communities, and moving towards a Faith Based Panel discussion around what our faith is calling us to do. As with the greater coalition, we represent a great breadth of the community with diverse theology, understandings of the climate reality, but with a common purpose to see change in our time through a "Just Transition" to a sustainable economy. We strive to keep the political and the emotional reactions out of the conversation and to concentrate on our responsibility as true caretakers of God's Good Creation.

Westminster College Coming

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Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, is coming to Alaska! A group of students from the college will be in Alaska from 17 May to 31 May, 2016, to study first hand the results of climate change. This study experience parallels the one hosted by Yukon Presbyterians for EarthCare, the PEC Regional Conference Alaska 2—7 September, 2014. Dr. Doug Causey from the University of Alaska, Anchorage, will be among the Alaskans offering study and insights to the students.

Rev. Neill D. McKay

University Community Presbyterian Church

Ruling Elder Tiffany
Immingan Featured in
2016 Lenten Devotional
Published by National
Presbyterians for Earth
Care

Who says that young people cannot be influential? Ruling Elder Tiffany Immingan from the Gamble Presbyterian Church on St. Lawrence Island, not yet 20 years old, is the leader of that community's Food Bank. In addition, she was one of our



Presbytery's delegates to the last General Assembly where she presented a compelling case about the impact of climate change on her village and island. Now she is a featured writer in the national Presbyterian press as the author of the Maundy Thursday devotional published by the national Presbyterians for Earth Care. You may obtain a copy of the Lenten Devotional by e-mail at presbyearthcare@gmail.com.

Following is the prayer Tiffany published in the Devotional:

Lord, Tonight we pray.
We mourn. We hold vigil.

We sit alongside our Lord
in the Garden. Help us
Lord, to stay awake. Help
us Lord, to know how to
be sacrifice. Grant us
mercy. Grant us wisdom.
Grant us a depth of soul-
seeking so that we may
know you, hear you, and
feel your presence in
each other; in the walrus,
in the whale, in the
Ocean, in all of Creation.
In the name the One who
came, comes, and will
come again. Amen.

We Need Your Help

A Network of Contacts

Yukon Presbyterians for EarthCare is building a network of members and churches in the Presbytery so that we can keep everyone informed on Earth Care and our responses. We need you to sign up to be a contact person for your church, or to suggest someone we might contact. Please send along the necessary information (Name, Church, Telephone Number, e-mail Address) to israel2@mtaonline.net.

Please designate your contribution with the Subject Line "Green Presbyterians Network." Thank you in advance for your help.

Garden Box Ministries

How do garden boxes address the crisis of climate change? Because we live in Alaska, with limited food production, we are very dependent upon

ships, airplanes, and trucks to bring food into our part of the world. We are also subject to potential emergencies and disasters, such as earthquakes and tsunamis. A repeat of the 1964 earthquake would leave us very vulnerable to food shortages, especially in the northern villages of Alaska. Realizing these facts, and also aware that growing food in garden boxes increases oxygen in the atmosphere to counteract the carbon footprints we all leave with our gasoline powered society, a number of churches in our Presbytery have started garden box ministries. Wasilla First Church will expand its ministry this year and offer garden spaces to low income families in public housing. New Hope Church in North Pole is also conducting such a ministry. Eagle River Church may expand its ministry as the site for a Farmer's Market. Immanuel Church has long had a garden box ministry. Trinity Church provides food to the school next door. Anaktuvuk Pass community is developing a high tunnel greenhouse using

permaculture principles, not only raising vegetables, but chickens and eggs. So the challenge has been issued to other churches in the Presbytery to develop garden boxes, not only to increase oxygen in the atmosphere, but to provide a measure of self-sustaining farming.

Food Crisis in Savoonga

To Israel Nelson, From Paul Rookok, Sr.

In October 2015, Governor Walker signed a Declaration for Economic Disaster for the residents of Gambell, Savoonga, Diomed and Wales. The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED) examined the criteria for a state economic disaster and determined that the 2014/2015 walrus harvests in each community were significantly below the 10 year base levels. Carved walrus provides cash economy and walrus meat provides a main subsistence food source for the residents of these communities. From my own personal perspective, I visualize this as a food insecurity due to the lack of our main subsistence food source. This food insecurity in forcing the residents to spend their limited cash income from

carved ivory and other sources, such as limited retirement benefits, for food at a high cost due to the high cost of shipping. This limited cash income comes often extremely short on much needed gasoline for other subsistence harvesting, household fuel, utilities such as electricity, water and sewer, etc. Many times, our residents are forced to give up these utilities and other necessary things in life for months at a time, due to this disaster.

2. Education that seeks to teach about threats to creation.
3. Facilities that are built or modified to be energy efficient.
4. Outreach that encourages public policy and community involvement to protect and restore degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people.

Fulfilling Earth Care Pledge

To complete the Earth Care Pledge, a congregation needs to do the following:

1. Worship that celebrates God's grace and glory in creation, calling us to cherish and protect the earth.

*Peace and Justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all
creation are God's...we are called to deal justly with...Earth*

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