



Presbytery of Yukon

January 15, 2021

Presbytery Ponderings - Rev. Curt Karns

When I was in seminary, one of my Bible teachers cautioned us about using scripture to hurt people. He told us that one of the great temptations for Christians is to use the Bible as a weapon to hurt our enemies. He told us there would be times when we would know the perfect scripture verse to put someone in their place when we thought they were wrong. He cautioned not to do it. Instead, he encouraged us to remember Paul's injunction in Ephesians 4:15 to *speak the truth in love*. "Never," said my teacher, "use passages of scripture as Bible bullets. Don't use the Bible to shoot at people."

I am pretty sure that I have not been perfect at following this guidance, though I have regretted it when I have not. That injunction to *speak the truth in love* is essential if we are to have churches, or families, or societies that maintain health. Whenever we fail to do so, we wound one another. Speaking the truth in ways that wound means speaking inadequate truth. Part of the truth should always be that people matter, including the ones we disagree with. If that message is not a part of the truth we are speaking, then we are not speaking the truth with enough depth.

This, I fear, is where our nation, and so many of us within our nation, find ourselves. We truly disagree on what happened with the elections. We need ways to deal with that. However, by the time of the elections many in our nation were already hurting badly enough that they were quick to overreact in ways that hurt others even more.

Christians need to take seriously Paul's injunction from Ephesians 4. Paul is calling us to grow in God's grace, and not be satisfied with prolonged spiritual infancy. We need spiritual maturity, and spiritual maturity shows itself in part through our ability to speak love when we speak truth. Indeed, without the message of love in our messages of truth, we fail to serve as God's ambassadors in the world.

The world sorely needs God's ambassadors right now. The world needs the church to demonstrate what the Kingdom of God can look like on the earth. The world needs people who neither avoid speaking when truth needs to be heard, nor fail to love while doing it.

I write this out of great sadness. How often have we heard such things from people like Martin Luther King, Jr., or Mother Theresa, or Paul the apostle. Yet, we find ourselves grieving again and again the woundedness of this sinful world because loving neighbor has not been the priority.

I realize that I, also, have not always been a great ambassador for our Savior. Even so, the current situation calls to me, as I hope it calls to

you. We need to rededicate ourselves to this essential task. Our world needs to understand that truth matters. But our world needs also to understand that truth that really matters is always connected to loving our neighbor, and even loving our enemy.

I hope you will join me in praying for our nation. I hope you will also join me in seeking to grow in our ability to speak truth with love, and to share that intention with everyone we meet.

Healthy Boundaries Training

There will be Healthy Boundaries Training on March 17, 18, and 24th from 10:00 to Noon via Zoom. This training is designed for all clergy, commissioned elders, and anyone doing pastoral care, counseling, or working with youth. Anyone in a position of authority who must regularly navigate relationships and set and maintain healthy boundaries can benefit from this training.

Henry Woodall will be leading and will be sharing from materials prepared by the FaithTrust Institute. A Zoom link, materials, and some worksheet/homework will be sent out prior to the training. If you have had this training recently, you can let Henry or Curt know or if you have any questions please contact us.

Henry Woodall: wasilla@mtaonline.net 907-354-5043
Curt Karns: exec@pbyukon.org

Pandemic Information

Vaccine—Alaskans eligible right now include:



(<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/epi/id/pages/COVID-19/vaccine.aspx>)

- Alaskans age 65 and above
- Healthcare workers (see eligibility criteria for details)
- Long-term care residents and staff (see eligibility criteria)

Vaccine managed by the Alaska Tribal Health System, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the U.S. Department of Defense may have different eligibility criteria. Vaccine doses will be distributed throughout Alaska in a series of phases. Over time, everyone who wants to be vaccinated will be able to get vaccinated.

(PPP) Payroll Protection Program Loans: Second Draw Opportunity

Churches are eligible to qualify for the second round of PPP relief, just as in the first round. Churches that received PPP Loans in the first round should be able to apply again through the same lending institution. By now, churches that received a PPP loan last spring should be working through their lending institution to for guidance on how to qualify for loan forgiveness on the first round of loans.

For more information on any of this, go online to the federal Small Business Administration web site at sba.gov.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Church Featured on PoY FB Page</u> | <u>How to Find Their Online Worship Every Week</u> |
|-------------|--|---|
| 1/17/21 | First Presbyterian Church, Anchorage | https://www.facebook.com/First-Presbyterian-Church-of-Anchorage-Alaska-152768168262144 |
| 1/24/21 | Trinity Presbyterian Church, ANC | https://www.facebook.com/trinityanchorage |
| 1/31/21 | First Presbyterian Church of Wasilla | https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresWasilla |
| 2/7/21 | Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church | https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9jCWvBxp-PDd_Jn5vii2Xw |
| 2/14/21 | Univ. Comm. Presb., Fairbanks | https://ucpcfairbanks.org/services |
| 2/21/21 | Jewel Lake Parish | https://jlp.church/ |
| 2/28/21 | Special Service of the Presbytery | https://www.facebook.com/PresbyteryofYukon |

Presbytery Financial Secretary Needed

The presbytery is in need of a new financial secretary. This is a part-time job, with flexible hours, ranging from 30-50 hours/month. A CPA license or an accounting degree is not required, but knowledge of Quickbooks would be helpful.

Please advertise this job opening across your churches. We would love to hire from our membership, though that is not essential for the job. The sooner we can find a new financial secretary, the better the chances that they will have time to receive training in the job. Resumes and inquiries should be sent to exec@pbyukon.org.

Financial Secretary Responsibilities:

1. Responsible for day-to-day financial matters, such as:
 - a. Pay bills and reimburse expenses
 - b. Payroll
 - c. Deposits
 - d. Send out receipts for gifts
 - e. Bill receivables
2. Provide monthly financial reports to the Leadership Team
3. Provide quarterly reports of church giving
4. Maintain Hillcrest loan records
5. Serve as resource person to the Stewardship Committee
6. Attend Leadership Team meetings and stated meetings of the presbytery
7. Make available all records to assist the auditor in reviewing financial records
8. And other duties as assigned, including some administrative office work

Info from the Alaska Synod

Email and Text Spoofing and Scams

More and more congregations, and ministries are being targeted by scammers and phishing attacks. These emails or text messages often pretend they are a pastor or bishop and ask for private conversation, or the need to for a favor, or to purchase gift cards.

These attacks are a phishing or spoofing scam. This means that the email

account or phone number has probably NOT been hacked. Attackers are using an alternate email address or phone number and contacts found using A.I. software.

This kind of attack is often called CEO Phishing or Business Email Compromise. In 2019, the FBI reported that this is a \$26 billion scam.

[Learn More...](#)

Prayer Requests



Leisa Carrick (surgery due to injuries from a fall)

Mark Your Calendars

**February 24 -28,
2021**

Winter Stated Meeting of the Presbytery
Virtual Meeting
Look for more information later this month

Presbytery of Yukon
616 W. 10th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99577
907-276-0914



www.pbyukon.org