



Presbytery of Yukon

October 27, 2021

A Tribute to Rev. Curt Karns



The Rev. Curt Karns

At the October Presbytery meeting we had a chance to recognize, honor and thank Rev. Curt Karns for being our Executive Presbyter for fourteen years. He has retired from his position. He will be missed, but lucky for the Presbytery, he will still remain here and be working with Intergenerational Arctic Ministries (IAM).

Elder Barbara Brown, from United Protestant Church, wrote a beautiful tribute to him as follows:

TRIBUTE TO CURT KARNS

Curt, oh Curt, we want to assert
How much you'll be missed
Now that you've left to go fish

You served the Yukon
Through summers short, and winters long
On the road system and off
And too you our hats we doff

As a CLP you felt God's call
So off you went to Dubuque's hallowed halls
And after serving in Wrangell and New Hope
Our Presbytery issued another call

For 14 years you served well as our Exec
And when Covid hit you got good at tech
Learning to sing in Inupiat, earth care
And Native Ministries became a passion
And many good programs you did fashion

*"The past is but a stepping stone
On which we build today,
A foundation for the future
And those who'll pass our way.
Every day is a gift from God that's ours to shape and mold,
And we should strive to honor Him as the hours unfold."
Clay Harrison*

Our foundation is strong
And our mission has been helped along
By your faithful service in word, deed and song.

So now as you step down from leading
May God's Holy Spirit continue feeding.
Now you'll have more time to help Cindy with weeding.

Know that you go with our best wishes and love.
And God is smiling on you from around and above.

A Bushel of Thank You's & Shout Outs!

A big "Thank You" to Scott Gruhn for being the man behind the curtain for all our technical maneuvers for the Presbytery-wide Worship Service this past month. Scott even took some drone pictures of our churches to show in the slideshow during the beginning of worship. If you would like a copy of the footage for your church, contact Scott at First Presbyterian Church, Anchorage.

Let's give a "Shout Out" to Dennis Berry, Elder at First Presbyterian Church, Anchorage, for his great moderating of our Virtual Presbytery Meeting in October. It is not easy managing all of us virtually, but he did a good job making the meetings go smoothly and keeping us on time!

This "Shout Out" goes to Jan Burger, Elder from United Protestant Church, in her being elected as our Synod of Alaska Northwest Moderator. Congratulations Jan!

A New Hymn for Climate Change

The United Nations will be holding their climate talks starting October 31st and going on for two weeks. This hymn-prayer was written to support efforts to counter climate change. It will be included at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland (October 31-November 12, 2021). COP26 (Conference of Participants) is the main decision-making body of 197 countries working to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions and to counter dangerous climate change.



The Climate is Changing

ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11 ("Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise")

The climate is changing! Creation cries out!
Your people face flooding and fire and drought.
We see the great heat waves and storms at their worst.
We pray for the poor, Lord— for they suffer first.

We pray for the animals here in our midst
who cannot defend their own right to exist.
We pray for the mountains and forests and seas
that bear the harsh footprint of our human greed.

We thank you for people who treasure the earth,
whose faith has long taught them its beauty and worth.
We thank you as well for the children and youth
who look to the future and speak out the truth.

We thank you, for leaders, courageous and brave,
who know that the earth is worth fighting to save,
who care about justice and what they should do,

who listen to science and work hard for you.

You love this good earth, and you sent us your Son!
May we love our neighbors— there's work to be done.
May we, by your Spirit, do all in our power
to care for your earth in this critical hour.

*Tune: Traditional Welsh hymn, in John Robert's Caniadau y Cyssegr
(Songs of the Sanctuary), 1839*

Text: Copyright © 2021 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

Permission is given for free use of this hymn.

Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com

The 8 Habits of Evangelism

The presbyterianmission.org website gives us 8 habits of Evangelism worth looking at. There is also a preamble given by Ray G. Jones III, Director of Theology, Formation & Evangelism. It is a fresh look at the whole subject of evangelism. He states "It is interesting to me that evangelism, the very word that means to declare good news and glad tidings, has become a dirty word.... If evangelism is simply a tool to bring more people into our churches, evangelism is not good news."

Why This Resource?

Evangelism is not a tool to gain new members for our churches. This ministry is not an instrument to help people gain access into heaven. The work of evangelism is much more expansive in its scope and meaning. Evangelism is a way of life that is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit, moving through common practices in the community of faith, enabling and empowering the body of Christ to live more deeply into the love of God and the lives of others.

This resource identifies and explores eight habits of faith, which invite the reader on a journey into the love of God, the lives of our neighbors, and the transformation of creation. As we become more like Christ, we are a people of radical inclusion, generosity, and justice. Through our worship, sacraments, community, prayer, and teaching, lives are being formed and transformed in ways that are the visible and audible signs of the reign of God. The community of faith is designed to be the seen, heard, and experienced as a representation of God's reign and peace.

Google the Presbyterian Mission Website and look at the 8 habits of Evangelism!

New Online Courses for Ministers

The Board of Pensions is offering a new e-learning course, Clergy Tax: Stay Informed, available through Board University. Designed for pastors, seminary students, personnel committee members, and church treasurers and administrators, this course explains tax laws that are unique to ministers, such as around

- dual tax status;
- reporting of self-employment income; and
- housing allowance.

The course also addresses tax laws that are applicable to all taxpayers — such as around imputed income, business expenses, and accountable reimbursement plans with a focus on clergy and churches — and provides guidance on how best to minimize taxation in these areas.

[Learn more about this course and how to access it.](#)

Answers to last month's Just for Fun! Presbytery Trivia

1) How many churches in our Presbytery did Rev. Bert Bingle pastor?

Rev. Bert Bingle was a pastor at two churches in our Presbytery: United Protestant Church (which he was the first pastor) and University Community Presbyterian Church (where he helped pastor families and students of the university). He was involved with many ministries up and down the railbelt as well.

2) What church in our Presbytery is celebrating it's 75th anniversary?

First Presbyterian Church in Wasilla celebrates their 75th anniversary. Congratulations to this congregation. We pray for many more years of fruitful ministry for you all!

3) Is there any stained glass in the new Gambell church? *There is no stained glass in the new Gambell church (unless there is some stains on the glasses in the cupboards).*

Prayer Requests



Please pray for the communities and congregations in Fairbanks and Anaktuvuk Pass as they struggle with a series of recent losses and the emotional and physical stress caused by the pandemic.

Mark Your Calendars

November 11th

Veteran's Day Holiday



November 25th

Thanksgiving

The presbytery office will be closed on Thursday, November 25th and Friday, November 26th in honor of the holiday.



February 2022

The Next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery
Location TBD

Presbytery of Yukon
616 W. 10th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-276-0914



www.pbyukon.org