

The Northern Light

Featuring the people and events of First Congregational Christian Church of Anchorage

November 2017

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Minister's Message

My family and I traveled back to Kansas to visit both of our families last month. In the lead-up to our trip, and in the days after we arrived back in Anchorage, I have had a few conversations about family, especially the difficulties of families, as well as the difficulty of being so far away from family. Family can be a

mixed experience. Some of us have very supportive families, and some of us have struggled to create a life in spite of our families. Most of us have a mixture of both.

The thing I have begun to notice is that when you move to Alaska, it can be as if you vanished to other people. The fact that we returned to Kansas only three months after moving was a sort of reassurance for people that we in fact did not vanish. It was good to reaffirm those connections, especially since we will not return regularly. It also revealed the limitations of our connection to our families of origin.

I have also been thinking of this in light of Paul's letters in the Bible, which we have read often during services in recent weeks. Paul is very concerned with how people live together. In many ways the communities Paul was speaking to would have been a mixed collection of people, not necessarily oriented around family relationships. They were in many ways communities of people on the margins of society looking for a new community. Paul knew that if they were going to make it, and maintain a community in the Way of Jesus in an unfriendly environment, that they would have to first understand how to live together in one accord.



That's really the basic motivation for the letters we have from Paul. How we live together in a community of choice, a community of faith, that sees the work of God in the world which is beyond our designations of family and kin, maybe even in spite of them.

I hope that's the kind of community we can be. Maybe there will be family connections, maybe not. Perhaps we are at times lonely, or at other times too busy. The important aspect, at least for me, is maintaining our sense of anticipation for something beyond the many aspects of our lives that attempt to define who we are and contain the possibilities of something greater. The first step is learning how to live with each other. Once we begin doing that, then everything else will take care of itself. There is no trick, no magic. New people will come, and we will grow from what they bring. People will pass on and we will mourn the void they leave. We will learn and relearn how to live with each other.

Blessings for the upcoming season of holidays, and the anticipation of life made new in the birth of Jesus.

Rev. Poindexter

Moderator's Message

By Vice Moderator Sharon Higgins

Our Moderator, Louise Smith, will convene the Fall Semi-annual Congregational Meeting on November 19, 2017, immediately following the worship service. The 2018 Budget is the main topic for this meeting, but we will also hear an update on the new sound system.

Following our Congregational Way means that attending this meeting is important for us all.



From Your Life and Learning Ministry

Marcie Errico, Chairperson

Life and Learning Ministry is looking for an Actress from our FCC family who would like to play the part of Mary (as a grandmother) in this year's pageant. It is a speaking part with quite a few lines. This is a new pageant for us. We are very excited about it and would love to have a new leading lady from our church family join in the fun. We will have just a couple of rehearsals after Thanksgiving. Please contact Marcie if you are interested in helping out.

From Your Stewardship Ministry (Trustees)

Deborah Stauffer, Chairperson

The Stewardship Ministry (Trustees) met and the following summarizes their actions:

1. Sound system update – the switch-out of old and new is tentatively scheduled to be complete in early November. So far, work is progressing exactly as planned.
2. To date, the Fall Faire proceeds total approximately \$1800. A very big thank you to Sharon Higgins and the many folks who helped with the work.
3. A few pledges have been received and the proposed 2018 budget planning has begun. When an accurate pledge amount is determined, the final draft budget will be prepared for submission to the congregation at the meeting on Sunday, November 19, 2017.
4. Approved authorization for ordering new window cranks to replace broken ones, and are investigating costs for replacing light bulbs with LEDs for the Meeting House (Sanctuary).
5. Evaluating snow removal companies for this winter's needs.
6. Approved the sextant position description and contract.
7. continuing evaluation and updating the financial reporting systems.
8. FOR NOVEMBER ONLY, Stewardship will meet November 14, Tuesday, at 3:30. Following evaluation of that day and time, future meeting times and dates will be discussed during that

meeting. FCC is a busy church and we try to avoid timing conflicts. All are encouraged to attend.

FUNDRAISING

Thank you again to all who helped with the Garage Sale and Fall Faire 2017. To date \$4,069.76 has been raised.

We have decided to extend fundraising through November. You might have noticed some art work hanging on the walls in Cary Mead Hall that have a price tag; speak with Sharon Higgins if you have questions or want to purchase. Additional items will be available during Fellowship time on certain Sundays. We want to make your holiday decorating and gift shopping easy and enjoyable.

What Is the NACCC?

[First Congregational Christian Church of Anchorage is a member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. Here is a summary of the what the NA is and how our dues money is used.]

Mission: Bringing together Congregational Christian Churches for mutual care and outreach to our world in the name of Jesus Christ.

What We Do

Establish & Revitalize Churches

The NACCC provides a number of resources to new and growing churches

Provide Leadership Resources

The Center for Congregational Leadership provides seminars and webinars throughout the year

Provide Mission Opportunities

We partner with and support eleven international missions and five national missions.

We also have eleven recommended missions that are supported by a member church

How We Support Our Member Churches

Pastoral Searches

Aiding member churches and clergy

Financial Opportunities

Granting funds to churches facing challenges through the Hurting Church Fund

Providing professional management for church endowments through the Congregational Investment Trust

Loaning funds to member churches through the Building & Loan Fund

Funding fine arts programs at member churches through the Richard Fund

Fellowship

Hosting the Annual Meeting & Conference

Facilitating regional retreats

Ministers' Convocation

Preparing tomorrow's leaders through NAPF/HOPE programs

Why Contribute to the NACCC?

As an organization, our vitality is directly tied to the support our member churches provide. The NACCC exists to serve our churches and relies on financial contributions to carry out our various programs and services.

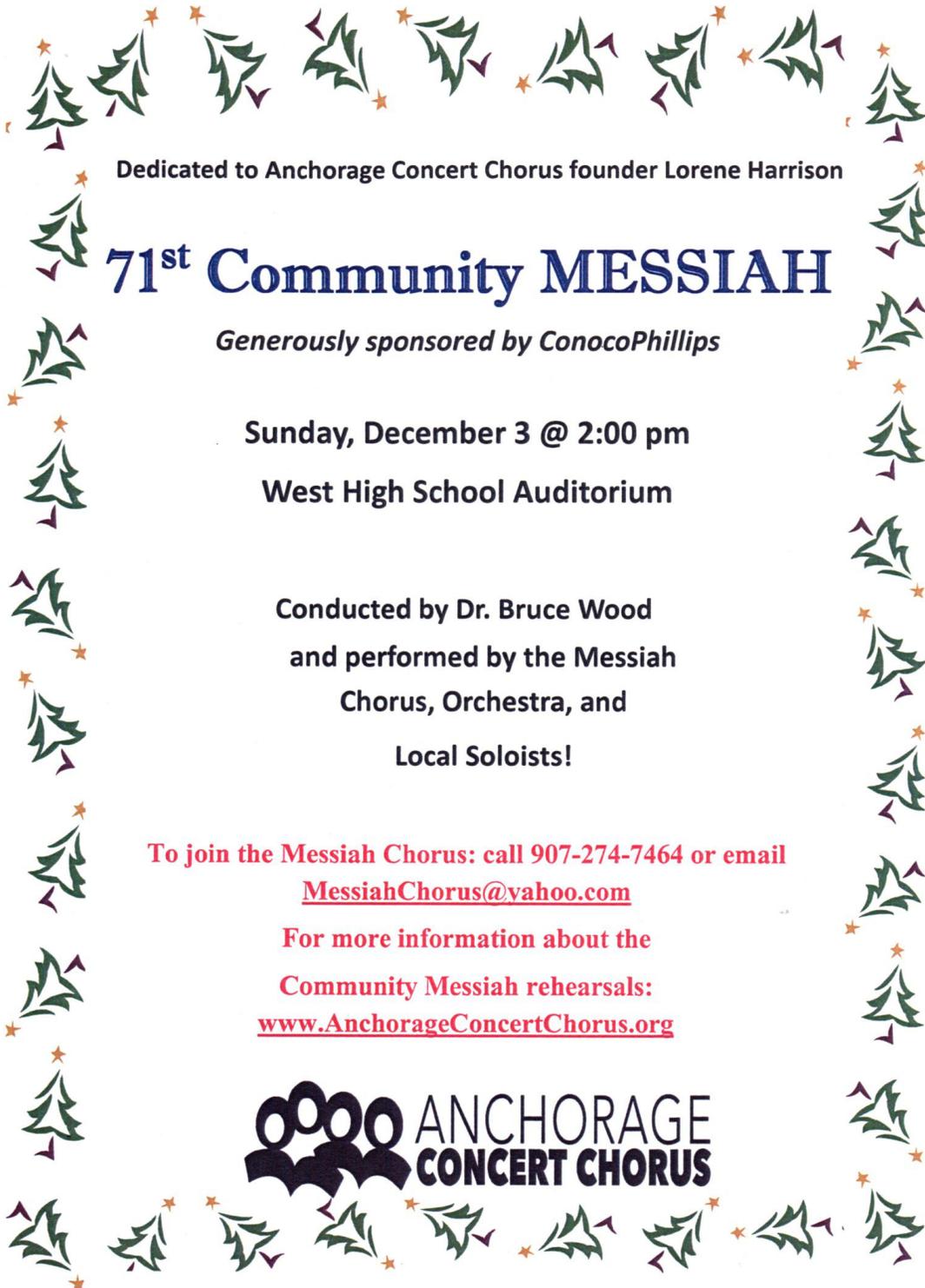
While every congregation is unique, we strive to be valuable and relevant to all our member churches, regardless of size and needs of the church.

Website: www.naccc.org

For questions contact Sharon Higgins, FCC's Year-round Delegate (smhalaska@gmail.com)



Remember, for the current Calendar, go to the Church web site (www.fccak.org) or let Kate know you need an email attachment or a paper copy



Dedicated to Anchorage Concert Chorus founder Lorene Harrison

71st Community MESSIAH

Generously sponsored by ConocoPhillips

Sunday, December 3 @ 2:00 pm

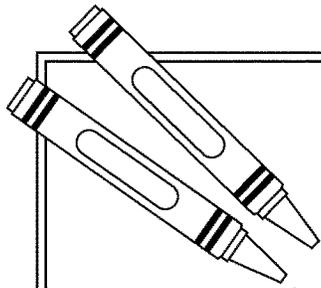
West High School Auditorium

Conducted by Dr. Bruce Wood
and performed by the Messiah
Chorus, Orchestra, and
Local Soloists!

To join the Messiah Chorus: call 907-274-7464 or email
[MessiahChorus@yahoo.com](mailto: MessiahChorus@yahoo.com)

For more information about the
Community Messiah rehearsals:
www.AnchorageConcertChorus.org





Just for KIDS



Read the definitions and look at the pictures. Write the word in the boxes. The dark boxes will spell a word to write on the lines above.

our planet 

parents, brothers, sisters, relatives

special persons to you

it holds the stars and the clouds



Puzzle answers on p. 6 of this newsletter.

FCC People

Interim Minister

Rev. Jacob L. Poindexter
907-272-8363 (work)
jacob@revpoindexter.com

Caroline Valentine, Organist,
Director, Northern Lights
Ringers

Lori Wasco
Director, Chancel Choir

Mariah Shira
Nursery Attendant

Contacts

*Administrative Assistant &
Editor*

Kate O'Dell 272-8363

FCC Church Sexton

Scott McClure 272-8363

Wedding Coordinator

Barbara Widtfeldt 377-1673

Serving the NACCC

Sharon Higgins,
Year-Round Delegate

Serving the PNACCC

Claudia Kniefel
2017 Delegate

Puzzle Answers

Earth, shoes, family,
Friends, sky, food,
Sun, clothes;

THANKFUL!

Carolyn Rinehart has shared this poem written by their dear family friend, Susan Gillett, a day before Bob's Memorial Service on Saturday, October 28, 2017.

FOR THOSE BOB LEFT BEHIND

He let me call him Bobert; we were friends
A decade, maybe more. I love him dear
(Note present tense); the power never ends.
As this is being write, he hovers hear.
A shadow's thickness only he has traveled,
But somewhere living mortals may not go
Except when stark reality's unraveled.
And we need merely wish to make it so.
If life were kind, this paltry poem would bring
Some comfort to his friends and family.
The laughter of the light, the stars that sing
Are his; all we have left is homily.
Dear Bobert isn't suffering anymore,
But – oh! – the rest of us will mourn him sore!
--Cruisin' Susan Gillett
October 27, 2017

A THOUGHT OR TWO

From Sharon Higgins

"Life is like photography. You need the negatives to develop it."
Unknown

"Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them
is what makes life meaningful." Joseph J. Marin

"Don't worry about failures, worry about the chances you miss
when you don't even try." Jack Canfield

"Forget all the reasons it won't work and believe the one reason
that it will." Unknown

"Just remember there is someone out there who is more than
happy with less than what you have." Unknown

*Some of the days in November carry the whole memory of
summer as a fire opal carries the color of moonrise.*

Gladys Taber

*In November, the earth is growing quiet. It is making its bed,
a winter bed for flowers and small creatures. The bed is
white and silent, and much life can hide beneath its
blankets.*

Cynthia Rylant