

Currents

A PUBLICATION OF EAGLE RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OFFICIAL NOTICE: JANUARY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 28, 2018

immediately after the 11 am Worship Service, including business such as electing officers, hearing reports of the Session, approving meeting minutes, receiving the Annual Report and transacting other business as appropriate.

Winter is Here!

Removing of the Greens.

Stay after the 11am worship on 1/7/2018 to help remove all the seasonal decorations. Fellowship committee will be providing finger foods.



VISIT US ONLINE ERPRESBYTERIAN.org



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2017 financial information will be in the Annual Report, available to the congregation on January 21.



FROM THE PASTOR:

Winter Notes!



Dear Friends,

I'm writing this on one of the last days of 2017. It's been an amazing year for us at ERPC and I can't wait to see what God will do in and through us in 2018. 2017 has seen many changes in our staff and our congregation, but the constant love of God and our fellowship with one another has remained the same.

Something else that remains the same is the thought and care that go into your annual Christmas gift to me. This year's gift of the Byron Birdsall *Alaska Saints* icon means more to me than I can say. Many years ago, when the presbytery had a partnership with a Russian Orthodox diocese in northwestern Russia, Byron gave a copy of this icon to the Archbishop in Murmansk. I was blessed to be a part of the journey and the presentation of the gift, so it's an amazing wonder to me to see that come full circle and receive the same beautiful painting. I will treasure it for many reasons - to keep Byron's memory alive, to celebrate the unity all Christians share, to remember the unique history of Christianity in Alaska, and most of all as a symbol of the love we share

with one another. Thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

As we begin this new year and look forward to all that God will do in and through us, I want to share this prayer of St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo. He was one of the earliest fathers of the church and lived in North Africa in the third and fourth centuries after Christ. His influence is still felt in his writings, sermons, prayers, and how Christians of all denominations express their faith.

*O loving God,
to turn away from you is to fall,
to turn toward you is to rise,
and to stand before you is to abide
forever.*

*Grant us, dear God,
in all our duties your help;
in all our uncertainties your
guidance;
in all our dangers your protection;
and in all our sorrows your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

God bless you all, dear friends!
With all my love in Christ,

Piper'



Jeff Banks	1-Jan
Sarah Preiss	6-Jan
Clara Gobeille	12-Jan
Karen Ague	12-Jan
Nate Berry	13-Jan
Neil Banks	13-Jan
Tess Freimuth	15-Jan
Carmela Wanner	20-Jan
Rose Koon	20-Jan
Alexa Swears	21-Jan
Patti Wilson	21-Jan
Chuck Homan	25-Jan
Josie Kiehl	27-Jan
Katelyn Toth	29-Jan
Brandi Braunwarth	31-Jan



In-Kind Donations

The Church office would like for anyone making a purchase or donating items to be used by the church to complete an In-Kind Donation form. This will then be added to your contribution report and will also help with the churches book keeping. As an example: if someone donated the all the cleaning supplies for 2017, so that we did not need to purchase any, our year-end report would not account for this and the 2018 budget would not be accurate. A copy of the form has been included for you.

Annual Spring Mission Auction

The Auction will be held in March this year. Exact date to be determined. Start going through your garage, shed, crawl space and make room some room. We will start collecting the donations beginning of March.

From the Organist

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and that the New Year brings new and exciting opportunities. As we push into 2018, I look forward to continuing to serve Eagle River Presbyterian Church as Resident Organist.

I have been asked a couple of times where I get my inspirations for Sundays. The answer is neither long or short. Many a times, I sit down to a popular hymn and God gives me guidance on how to play and other times I beat my head against the wall in frustration coming up with what I deem an acceptable interpretation. I spend hours combing through You Tube, Pandora and stacks of sheet music searching for that perfect blend of volume, voicing and tonal response. Some of the great organists of our time like Samuel Metzger and Diane Bish (Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Fort Lauderdale) Paul Jacobs (Chair of Organ at Julliard) and Roger Nyquist (World Renown Organist) have provided me the building blocks of inspirations and a lot of it is my own spiritual interpretation of the hymn in conjunction to the organ.

But my real inspiration comes from your kind remarks and comments and they really push me to come up with new and fresh ideas every week. Please know that your positive responses have not only made me want to learn more but have made me an even better musician.

God Bless you all in 2018 and I look forward to continuing to serve as organist for your wonderful church.

In Christ,
Michael Wright

From the Office

Office Volunteers needed

Jan 29 – Feb 9

Allison is taking a trip to see her parents and we are looking for a few volunteers to come to the office 9a-1p Mon-Fri. If you are willing to help please contact Allison, Piper, or Debbie Ossiander to coordinate.

Tasks will include

- Opening the office
- Answering the phone
- Checking and responding to emails
- Assisting the Pastor when needed
- Checking the mail
- Filing incoming checks and invoices to be processed on Monday by Sharon
- Folding weekly bulletin (making changes and reprinting if needed)

Online Giving

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

Eagle River Presbyterian Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

Credit & Debit Card Giving lets you make offerings automatically on a predetermined schedule using a credit or debit card.

Online Giving lets you go to <http://www.erpresbyterian.org/ways-to-give/> at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Additional information is available from the church office.



Eagle River Presbyterian Church

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The *Beauty* of *Creation*

