



# Currents

A Publication of Eagle River Presbyterian Church

## Update from the Earthquake Committee

Our Church building keeps changing! Here is a snapshot of what is happening and what to expect next.

We have received an updated damage assessment from the insurance company. The claim will remain open for the time being to allow for further adjustments, if needed. The first check should arrive shortly after the claim is finalized. The FEMA damage assessment is finished as well, and we have started drafting the first RFP's (request for proposals) to send out to contractors.

During the next month we will be shopping for another sanctuary door. Our volunteers will be finishing up the electrical and lighting work. We also hope to finish the new wall behind the sanctuary, and we will be asking for volunteers to help install sheetrock. The new administrative office is due to have heat and window shades installed soon. Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped so far – over 1200 hours—breaking down the old walls, building new ones, rewiring, painting, moving furniture, and cleaning up. You are making the renovation possible!

### *From the Pastor*



Thank you for welcoming me into the life and family of ERPC. Over the years I've known many of the saints and shared in some your events and projects, from Rev Jim Scott and the chartering worship service, to worshipping beside the DMV, buying the pool hall—but never from the inside. For me it is a blessing and these three months together are a gift. (continued on pg. 2)



Expanded narthex with new wall

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St Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus about their life and ministry together “in Christ”. His prayer and pleading was that in their life together the richness of the one body of Christ would shine: “we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love (Ephesians 4:15,16)”. What I have seen at ERPC, you, working together, in tasks regular and extraordinary, each according to gift and temperament and training, generous with your time and good-natured amid the ongoing repairs—we may well remember

this season as ‘the long year after the earthquake’. But our life and prayer together is the great school of faith, and more than rebuilding the structure is the growth of the spiritual body that is ERPC. Not to be thankful for an earthquake, but for a good work shared and done well.

This is the life and witness to which Christ calls us. It is a ‘together’ enterprise, where we each have our part and each grows and matures, but never on our own, or for our own. As Christ was given to the world, for the sake of the world, so are we. Together.

May the peace of Christ be with you, and may His love shine in us.

David



At our July 28 worship service, we welcomed Cheryl Cloyd of Alongside Ministries. Alongside is “an international fellowship of Christians working together to strengthen the Church and advance the Gospel worldwide.” Cheryl shared with us some of the unique challenges her families’ ministry faces in their predominantly Muslim neighborhood in Strasbourg, France. ERPC has supported the Cloyd family for many years, and it was gratifying to meet with her in person while she visited friends here in Alaska. Go to [www.renewfrance.org](http://www.renewfrance.org) to learn more about Alongside and its mission.



Allison Denton.....3-Aug  
Lloyd Pool.....3-Aug  
Ruth McNearney.....3-Aug  
Rhys Cottle.....6-Aug  
Jennifer Cottle.....10-Aug  
Simon Kiehl.....10-Aug  
Sandra Charlton.....16-Aug  
Bill Swears.....17-Aug  
Chris Woodard.....17-Aug  
Kierin Frick.....17-Aug  
Teri Swears.....17-Aug  
Matthew Hobbie.....18-Aug  
Gay Stewart.....19-Aug  
Melody Musick.....20-Aug  
Brian Peterson.....23-Aug  
Jim Mitchell.....25-Aug  
Joanne Banks.....28-Aug  
Kacie Kmak.....28-Aug  
Stephanie Spencer.....30-Aug  
Jeff Duft.....4-Sep  
Taya Peterson.....4-Sep  
Dennis Spencer.....11-Sep  
Ellen Koenen.....14-Sep  
Brent Koenen.....17-Sep  
John Malecha.....21-Sep  
Andrew Cottle.....24-Sep  
Kelly Blalock.....24-Sep  
Becky Musick.....28-Sep  
Cora Rasic.....28-Sep  
Jerry McNearney.....28-Sep  
Joe Braunwarth.....28-Sep  
Janet Blalock.....29-Sep  
Christa Cartland.....30-Sep  
Connor Spencer .....30-Sep



**Our annual school supply drive for Fire Lake Elementary school is under way. There is a list and donation basket located in the narthex. We plan to deliver the supplies on August 16. Thank you for helping our local elementary school students and teachers!**



Aug/Sept 2019

Dale & Emily Berry.....12-Aug  
Dennis & Stephanie Spencer..14-Aug  
Bill & Diane Walters.....23-Aug  
Jeff & Joanne Banks....27-Aug  
Jim & Lorinda Mitchell...September 3  
Bill & Ethel Dougherty...September 7  
Suellen Novak & Larry Baumgartner..Sept 23



PHILEMON 1:20





There will be a  
youth hike on  
August 10. Time  
and location TBA

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR K-6TH  
GRADE STARTS SEPTEMBER 8!**

**THE ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC**

**WILL FOLLOW WORSHIP THAT  
DAY. LOOK FOR A SIGN-UP IN  
LATER IN AUGUST.**

**OUR GARAGE SALE ON JULY 12 RAISED OVER  
\$2,000 FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION! HALF OF  
THE PROCEEDS WILL BE SPENT ON CURRICULUM  
AND A CHOSEN MISSION BY THE CHILDREN. THE  
OTHER HALF WILL GO TO SUPPORT THE EAGLE  
RIVER FOOD PANTRY, HOUSED IN OUR BUILDING.  
THANKS TO ALL WHO DONATED THEIR TIME AND  
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS!**

Three of our high-schoolers attended the Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT), held at Purdue University in mid-July. PYT happens every 3 years, and draws around 5,000 youth participants from across the country. Abbie, Penelope, and Melody shared some of their experiences with the congregation during worship on July 28. All three are inspired and enthusiastic about doing God's work and helping others. It was a gift for ERPC to be able to send youth to this conference for the first time in the history of our church, along with 7 other Alaskan youth and 2 chaperones, from as far away as Gambell, AK.

After hearing from Melody Musick about her PYT experiences, we said good-bye to her for 11 months! She will be on a student exchange program in Paraguay for her junior year of high school and will return to Eagle River next summer.



The Alaska PYT delegation



## Garden Update

Harvesting of the garden beds has begun! In July, 18 pounds of peas and beans were picked and given to the food pantry. We will be harvesting weekly throughout the fall, and help is always appreciated. Last year's total yield was 300 pounds, and we expect to have even more this year.

The Eagle River Food Pantry served 21,525 individuals in 2018 and is showing an 8% increase in 2019. There is a need for fresh, nutritious food to be available for low-income families in the Eagle River/Chugiak area and the ERPC garden is helping to fulfill that need. If you are interested in volunteering at the food pantry, please contact Liz Swenson at [eliswenson@gmail.com](mailto:eliswenson@gmail.com) or 907-726-7207.

Choir rehearsal  
begins September 1  
at 8:45, before  
worship. New  
members are  
always welcome!



## Looking ahead...

Wednesday night Bible study will resume in October, after Pastor Cartland returns from her sabbatical. There will be a sign-up for the study series, Mountaintop Moments, in early September.



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And I will bring my people Israel back from exile.  
“They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them.  
They will plant vineyards and drink their wine;  
they will make gardens and eat their fruit.

Amos 9:14, NIV