



Currents

A PUBLICATION OF EAGLE RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

From the pastor:

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that it's November already and soon we will be in the middle of Advent and planning for Christmas. This year has flown by, hasn't it? Maybe it's because there has been so much to do as we continue to recover from last year's earthquake, but each November is a good time to slow down and realize our blessings, earthquake or not.

This November I am grateful for so many blessings. Our church staff has seen turnover in two major positions since the spring. God provided Elizabeth when Allison Denton left in April, and Connor just this month when Gretchen needed to leave our music ministry. I always worry needlessly, and God always provides! Neil and Evan and Elizabeth and Connor are exactly who we need to help the programs and ministries of ERPC run smoothly. It's a gift to work with them.

I'm grateful for our elders and deacons and trustees. This year has been one of decisions and planning and meetings as most of our church officers have been involved with sorting out the earthquake damage. They've been listening to God, discerning together how best to move forward and think through all the various funding and construction and renovation decisions.

So many members have given countless hours to cleaning and construction projects and FEMA meetings and lawn and garden work and mission projects and fellowship events. Every day of the week, as well as many evenings, one or two or more of you are giving your time and talents to the ministry of our congregation. The myriad groups and ministries who use our building mean that caring for and renovating our space and our grounds is one of the primary ways we serve God's kingdom.

I've been back from my sabbatical long enough now to realize how badly I needed the time to slow down and rest. I can't express deeply enough my gratitude to all of you for making the time off possible. I know that so many of you shared the leadership and the ministry, taking care of things so I could take the time to just 'be', to rest and read and pray and spend time with my family. I'm so glad for David's presence with you while I was gone – that is truly another reason for gratitude!

(continued on pg 2)



INSIDE this issue

- From the Pastor
- Trustees Update
- November birthdays
- Stewardship
- Looking ahead to Advent
- Youth News
- Mission & Outreach updates
- Puzzles
- Calendar (insert)
- Financial page (insert)



**REMEMBERING OUR
VETERANS**

On November 11



FROM THE PASTOR: (continued from pg. 1)

Now that I'm back in my regular schedule I'm trying to remember those rhythms of sabbath rest, making the slowing down a regular part of my days and weeks. I have a new appreciation for the power of finding time to notice the blessings of each new day. I'm working on being mindful of each moment and listening to God speak through the beauty of his world and his people.

This Sunday we are celebrating All Saints' Day, when we remember the gifts of the beloved saints of the church and learn to understand the legacy they left for us. Some of the saints we'll celebrate are known to the world, but many more are known and cherished by only a few of us, our own personal saints – our grandparents and Sunday school teachers and those who taught us to love Jesus. It's a gift to remember them with thanks!

On All Saints' Day we also celebrate and give thanks for the lives of the ordinary saints we meet every day, the saints that God sends across our paths – the ones in our homes and offices and schools and in our church. Robert Benson, in *Between the Dreaming and the Coming True*, says "All of the places of our lives are sanctuaries; some of them just happen to have steeples. And all of the people in our lives are saints; it is just that some of them have day jobs and most will never have feast days named for them."

I'm so privileged to walk this journey with you, dear friends! Thank you for the ministry we share and for the daily blessing it is to serve God's kingdom together.

In Christ

Piper



- Tom Darnall 8-Nov
- Scott Bailey 14-Nov
- Lucy Witt 15-Nov
- Evleen Kelly 17-Nov
- Olivia Lewis 21-Nov
- Bill Dougherty 21-Nov
- Colton Braunwarth 21-Nov
- Maya Priess 24-Nov



November is Stewardship month! Pledge cards go out on Nov. 3 and are due back by Nov. 24. Your pledges are an important part of planning the budget for 2020!

Trustees Update



The most visible change at church this week was the sudden appearance of Sanctuary doors! Our hope is that they will help us hear the service more clearly, but they certainly improve the appearance of the Sanctuary as well. The work that was less visible: replacement of the water heater, removal of glue from the concrete floor in the AA/food pantry hallway, taping and cleaning of the heating vents, repairs to the pews, and our first hard look at the potential bidders who were asked to level our concrete floor. Our goal is to soon make a decision on how to handle the floor leveling, even though the work itself will not occur until the first of the year.



Your Trustees



Looking Ahead...



December 1 is the first day of Advent. We will have the **Hanging of the Greens** after worship that day. Please plan to stay and help decorate the church. There will be snacks provided!



Youth NEWS

In October, the children's Sunday school and several youth went to Fred Meyer to spend some of the proceeds from our July garage sale. They purchased food for the Chugiak/Eagle River food pantry--over 400 pounds of canned and shelf-stable food that will help families in need. After sharing a delicious lunch with the combined youth group, the Sunday school kids went home and the youth processed, inventoried, and shelved the food. It was a great effort by all of the young people (and a few older ones!) Thanks to all who contributed!

Also in October, the combined youth group volunteered at the Alaska Food Bank in Anchorage, along with several other youth groups, to prepare boxes of food to be sent to villages. There was a Lock-in last week at First Presbyterian Church, with bread-baking, midnight games of sardines, and very little sleep. In November, the youth group will continue its "food" theme by helping in the Chugiak/Eagle River food pantry again.

Mission & Outreach



Updates

November 10 is the last day to write cards for the Friends of our Troops **Mail for the Military** campaign. It only takes a few minutes to write an encouraging note expressing thanks to a soldier deployed and apart from family during the holidays. Your kind words mean a lot.

We are collecting bags or boxes of stuffing and envelopes of gravy for the **Thanksgiving Blessing**. The deadline is November 24.

We are also collecting warm weather gear, including gently used coats and jackets, for **Hiland Mountain Correctional Center**.

The **Chugiak/Eagle River Food Pantry** has the following **immediate needs**: peanut butter (16 or 28oz size), vegetable beef soup, beef stew, cream of mushroom soup, canned fruit (peaches, fruit cocktail, mandarin oranges, pineapple). On November 18, they will begin accepting the following **holiday meal** items: chicken broth, brown sugar (1lb.), mini marshmallows, green beans (French style), French fried onions, Jell-O, pumpkin, whipped topping, dinner rolls. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

There are bins located in the Narthex for all food and clothing donations.

GRATITUDE game

Start a fun tradition by playing this game on Thanksgiving.

What you need:

- M&M's or other colored candies
- A bowl
- The list below (adapt the colors, as needed)

Red: a need God has provided for

Orange: a gift you've received

Yellow: something you've recently learned

Green: something in nature

Blue: a special memory

Brown: someone you love

What you do:

1. One at a time, people pick a candy and share what they're thankful for (according to the color).
2. Pass the bowl around and continue reflecting on God's goodness until all the candy is gone!



A feast of praise

Throughout the Bible, God's people give thanks and praise for his goodness.



Directions: Draw lines to match the scriptures (all NIV) with the correct speaker.

"I thank my God every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3	Hannah
"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Luke 1:46-47	David
"He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him." Exodus 15:2	Mary
"My heart rejoices in the LORD." 1 Samuel 2:1	Paul
"I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30	Moses



Campbell

"We're going to my Grandma's on Thursday to pig out ... and also be thankful."

Eagle River Presbyterian Church

PO Box 771337

12836 Old Glenn Hwy.

Eagle River, AK 99577

(907) 694-5753

www.erpresbyterian.org



Give
THANKS
To The
LORD

... MAKE KNOWN HIS DEEDS AMONG THE PEOPLES.

ISAIAH 12:4, ESV