



The Good news from the Office of the Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime, 8th Bishop of Alaska

September 2019



Living in the Spirit: The Art of Life

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in Step with the Spirit”

Galatians 5:25

There is an art to life. More than just finding beauty in the world, looking on the bright side of things, focusing on the harmonious, the art of life is living fully.

That sounds a bit like a quotation often attributed to St. Irenaeus of Lyon, a 2nd century bishop of the Church. The words attributed to Irenaeus are this: “The glory of God is a Man fully alive.”

To modern ears and adventurous hearts, that quotation might invite us to think that God’s glory is all about going for the gusto. Carpe Diem! A no holds barred approach to life that begs us to do more, be more, try more. All for a taste of glory, even the glory of God.

In this way, the art of life is the attainment of glory by living life to the fullest!

How exciting! But then I wonder what a second century Bishop did for a life fully alive. I’m pretty sure Irenaeus wasn’t sky-diving, hiking, mountain climbing, or doing yoga with goats. In fact, based solely on my seminary experience of studying Irenaeus and his life’s work, his life was anything but full by modern standards. What’s the phrase: all work and no play makes Irenaeus a dull boy.

Yet, I am certain Irenaeus’ life was full of God’s glory despite a lack of adventure. In fact,

Irenaeus didn’t actually say that the glory of God is a human being *fully* alive. What he wrote was that the glory of God is a living human being: “For the glory of God is a living human being; and the life of the human consists in beholding God.”

The art of life *is* beholding God in life.

And to live fully, I think, is to behold God in all of life; even in the grotesque, the painful, the wounded and broken. Where there is life there is the glory of God.

We are invited to see this art: this glory of God. More, we are called to be moved, inspired, and transformed by the glory of God in life.

A world, a humanity, that seeks only what is well pleasing in its sight, is not fully alive. And a people who do not recognize God’s presence, God’s love, and God’s value in every life, is missing the glory of God.

To see the glory of God in life is to see life transformed by the glory of God. And with that vision we are invited to be artists through the Spirit’s power.

Our Diocesan Convention this year will provide us some unique opportunities to explore the connections between art, spirituality, and the vision of God. I hope that it is a transformative experience and an invitation to expand your

vision of God's glory in life.

We will have two "Keynote" presentations. The first will be by Pastor Paul Oman, who will engage us in a worship experience intended to "Bring the Word to Life Before Your Eyes." His presentation will blend Word, Sacrament, and artistic expression. Our second keynote presentation will be by The Rev. Nancy James who serves as the Chaplain at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. Her presentation will help us focus on the art of the inner spiritual life. The Reverend Dr. Nancy James is recognized as the world expert on the 16th century French mystic, Jeanne Guyon.



See you at St. Mary's, Anchorage!

--Bp. Lattime

Gwich'in Translation of the BCP

The Diocese of Alaska received a UTO grant in 2017 to continue the work of translating the Book of Common Prayer 1979 into modern Gwich'in.

We remain deeply indebted to the ministry, witness, and life of Archdeacon Robert MacDonald for his extraordinary work of creating the written form of the Gwich'in language and translating the prayer book, hymnal, and scriptures into Gwich'in. MacDonald completed his translations at the end of the 19th century. Although these translations (referred to as the Takudh), are still used today, they are somewhat limited because prayer book translation is of the 1662 Anglican Church of Canada, which is not used in regular worship in the Episcopal Churches of the Diocese of Alaska.

Therefore, the vision driving the translation work funded by the UTO grant is to expand on MacDonald's work and create a translation of the Rite II Eucharistic liturgy of the Prayer Book 1979. One hope is that this will increase opportunities for people to hear and learn Gwich'in through corporate prayer and worship.

Allan Hayton is serving as the project coordinator. He is working with Gwich'in speaking elders and clergy. We are grateful, as well, for the assistance and interest of the Yukon Native Language Center and the input of Dr. John Ritter.

In celebration of this new project and the gift of Archdeacon MacDonald's Takudh translation, there was a Celebration of Holy Communion in Gwich'in at St. Matthew's, Fairbanks, August 8th last month. Similar to previous Alaskan celebrations of Holy Communion in Gwich'in, visitors from Canada joined Gwich'in elders and clergy from Alaska in leading the worship service. The Rev. Trimble Gilbert gave the sermon. The liturgy used portions from both the Takudh translation and the modern translation.

Nearly 75 people were in attendance, with many more people following along online via St. Matthew's Facebook Live stream. In addition, a film crew from the University of Alaska Fairbanks recorded the event.



Convention Corner – Suzanne Krull

44th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska
Living in the Spirit: the Art of Life; “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the spirit”

Galatians: 5:25

Hosted by: St. Mary’s, Anchorage AK

October 3- October 6, 2018

Convention is a time to gather, worship, pray, learn, grow and enjoy each other’s company and stories. It is also a time to attend to some business, such as pass a budget, elect/ appoint persons to diocesan committees, and select the place and date for next year’s convention (**is your congregation being called to host convention?**), etc.

We are excited to welcome Pastor Paul Oman and Rev. Nancy James as our guest speakers. They will explore with us ways we can see, hear, feel and answer God’s call to ministry and living in the Spirit.

This year, there are no pre-filed resolutions. Copies of the proposed 2020 Budget, positions open for nomination/election with deanery nominations (including General Convention Deputies for 2021 General Convention), the Convention schedule and the Clergy Conference schedule all are on-line at the diocesan web-site, www.episcopalak.org. If you are interested in running for any of the open positions and have not been nominated by the deaneries, please bring a completed Nominee Form with you to Convention.

Summary of positions on diocesan committees open for election this year:
Commission on Ministry:

Southeast Lay

Standing Committee:

Seat #7 Arctic Coast Clergy

Seat #8 South Central Clergy

Seat #9 Interior Lay

Disciplinary Board:

Seat C Clergy (any deanery)

FIT Committee (Faith Into Tomorrow Endowment):

Seat D Clergy (any deanery)

General Convention Deputies (2021 General Convention)

(4) Clergy Deputies

(4) Lay Deputies

If you have already sent in your delegate registration forms and fee, THANK YOU, if not, please do so, as soon as possible.



Convention Notes—Lynnette Winfrey

Congregations by deanery who have not turned in their delegate forms:

Arctic Coast: Kivalina, Noatak, Point Lay

Interior: Anvik, Arctic Village, Beaver, Birch Creek, Chalkyitsik, Circle, Fort Yukon, Grayling, Hughes, Minto, Nenana, Rampart, Shageluk, Stevens Village, Tanacross, Tanana, Venetie

South Central: Palmer, Talkeetna

Southeast: Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg

Please go to <https://www.episcopalak.org/convention.html> to register online or to print out a pdf form and return to the diocese by fax 907-456-6552 or email to lwinfrey@gci.net. If you have any questions contact Lynnette Winfrey-Frank at

907-452-3040

or

1-800-478-3043.



Tidbits—Melissa Ward

Hello everyone!

It is that time of year again, and I am on the prowl for current contact information. So If you would please fill out the document on the next page and return it to me, I would greatly appreciate it.

You can email it to :

alaskcopalians@gci.net

OR- Mail it to :

Episcopal Diocese
1205 Denali Way
Fairbanks, AK 99701

OR- Fax it to :

907-456-6552

Contact Information Sheet

Please PRINT Clearly

Name:

Last *First* *Middle* *Suffix*

Address:

Street/Po Box *City* *State* *Zip*

Phone:

Home *Cell* *Work*

Email/s: 1)

2)

Title: Check one

Deacon

Priest

Lay Leader

Other

Church you are affiliated with:

Church Name:

Address:

Street/PO Box *City* *State* *Zip*

Phone:

Are you willing to travel to other churches that have no clergy?

Yes

No

Do you want to receive "The GoodNews" Newsletter?

Yes

No

Please list any other informaion you want us to know.
