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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Bickleton, Washington

Dear Friends:

June 27, 1970

This letter is being written in the heat (environmental and psychological) of preparation for our impending thirteen month absence from Bickleton. First I want to assure you in the famous words of General Douglas McArthur, "I shall return." My plans are not to educate myself out of the pastorate here; but rather to prepare myself to return to Bickleton with some improved skills and knowledge to be a better pastor. Part of the work I plan to do will be in the area of counseling. A course I wish to enroll in this fall is entitled: "Christian Faith and Personal Crises." It is designed to help ministers to become better equipped to help people meet crucial situations such as: doubt, vocation, marriage, anxiety, illness, suffering, guilt, and bereavement. In addition to coursework at the seminary, I plan to enroll in a six-weeks program at the University of Iowa next summer. The course is called "Clinical Pastoral Care." I will be working with patients at the University Hospital under the supervision of the Hospital Chaplain. That experience should be valuable in preparing me to better help people in meeting a number of kinds of crises.

The other main field of my study and the one in which I wish to write the thesis for the Master of Sacred Theology degree, is the field of theology. In 1967 our denomination adopted a book called, "The Book of Confessions." It is a book not of prayers of confession, but of statements of faith. It contains documents from the church's early years. It has some from the 16<sup>th</sup> century when the Reformation happened. It has one from Germany in 1932 and one addressed to the present day, "The Confession of 1967." In the course of my study I want to draw out some of the implications of this book for the practical life of a small church like the one here.

Our first deadline is to be in Lansford, North Dakota by July 10. Marilyn is taking us there for the only reunion there has ever been for those who attended the Lansford schools. Rumors have it that there will be 700 there for the reunion. That's about double the population. Of Lansford. We will remain with Marilyn's dad for about ten days. We'll stop at her sister's in Minnesota for a few days and then we'll go down the Mississippi to Dubuque, Iowa. Marilyn starts to work August 1 and I am scheduled to preach somewhere on August 2. We'll try to keep you posted on further developments.

We thank you for the supper last Friday night. We appreciate the many expressions of affection and good wishes we have received. We will make good use of the money gifts. You folk will be much in our thoughts while we are away.

One thing I want to ask is your support for the church during this next year. Expenses will continue. Arrangements are being made for ministers to be here sometimes just on Sunday and sometimes to line in the manse for as long as several months. The church is continuing to pay my pension during my absence which will amount to

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almost \$1,000. The balance in the checking account on June 26 was \$186.39. That means some of the building fund has gone into the pastor's salary. So please as you are able help the church get back on its feet financially. Come to church too. There will be a variety of preachers the next few Sundays. During August Bob White who was here the summer of 1963 will be here with his family.

Paul Jensen, pastor of Prosser United Presbyterian Church is the Moderator for our church during my absence.

SCHEDULE OF PREACHERS: July 5 - Alwin Gall; July 12 - Dean Agee; July 19 - Henry Ostermeier; July 26 - Dean Agee; August - Bob White. Others will be announced later.

PICNIC, AUG. 2 - Church will be at 9:00 a.m., Aug. 2 following which there will be a swimming party and picnic. The place will be announced.

GO-SEE ALASKA - Terri Gregson and Marcia Savage will represent our church on the GO-SEE SEMINAR IN ALASKA sponsored by our Presbytery Aug. 21 - 30. They with 23 other young people and several adults will be aboard the Motor Vessel, Anna Jackman for a unique experience of travel, study, and worship along the coast of Southeast Alaska. Marcia and Terri are supplying \$40 apiece toward the costs. The remaining \$85 apiece is being raised by contributions and through the sale of baked goods by the youth group. There remains about \$65 to be raised. Baked goods may be ordered from Lise Jensen. Lise will accept contribution too, or you may give them to Mary Shotwell, youth advisor.

CAMP NOW GOING ON - Camp application forms are at the church. Anyone going to camp should get a form, fill it out immediately and turn it in to Mrs. A.M. Matsen. The Sunday School has offered to pay the \$5 registration. The remainder of camp fee should be given to Mrs. Matsen or to our Sunday School Treasurer, Mrs. Earl Lasley Sr. Do not send camp fees to camp!

That's all folks. We'll see you in a year. Drop us a line now and then after you get our address. We'll try to let you know how we are doing.

Bill, Marilyn and family

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