

*In light of our congregation being on the receiving end of the generous service provided by our brothers and sisters from Fairfax, VA and Gambell, AK this past week, this is an appropriate reminder for us that we are all called to serve:*

## **Service**

**By Andy Laux**

Service is defined by Webster as: *“the occupation or function of serving.”* Christians should be familiar with the concept of serving. Jesus, Himself said He came to serve and not to be served (*Matthew 20:28*). The Bible writers began many of their letters with the declaration that they were servants or bondservants of Christ (*Romans 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:1; James 1:1-2; Peter 1:1; Jude 1:1; Revelation 1:1*). We are enjoined by many Bible writers that we are to serve and not to be served in Christ’s kingdom. Consider what Paul said in Colossians 3:13: *“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do”* (1 Peter 2:16; John 13). It is evident that we are to serve one another as well as Jesus. In fact, we can not serve Jesus if we don’t serve one another.

An attitude of what can others (government, church, school, etc.) do for me has developed in our society. This attitude has invaded the church in many locations. Some people are members of a certain congregation because of what that particular congregation can *do for them*. [One time,] a person told me that their family was going to seek another church because this (South Anchorage) church “was just not supporting them” the way they thought we should. They were miffed because not enough people from the church chose to attend a baby shower for a family member, etc.

If this wasn’t so serious it would be laughable. Many are trying to change the church so that it will respond to their perceived “needs.” What this means is if we entertain people and if we will serve them they will be a part of us and if not, they will seek a church that will.

Let us put the emphasis where it belongs: on the service we provide others, not on what we can *get* from the church.