

# MINISTERS AND SPOUSES RETREAT

Algeska Resort  
April 23-25, 2020 **Renewal**

[Register Here](#)

## Mission and Ministry Requests for 2020

Partners in ministry are ready to come  
and are asking for projects.

Do we have opportunities for them?  
Send your requests today!

[heather@alaskabrn.com](mailto:heather@alaskabrn.com)

OR [see our website](#)



**TVBA clinic**  
 9-12 a.m., Saturday, April 18  
 First Baptist Church, North Pole

**CBA clinic**  
 5:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 21  
 Sunset Hills Baptist Church

**HPBA clinic**  
 5:30-8:30 p.m., Monday, April 20  
 Schrock Road Baptist Church



**WOMEN ON MISSION CELEBRATION**

**THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY**  
**APRIL 2-4, 2020**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, ANCHORAGE**

**LAQUINTA INN AND SUITES**  
 3501 MINNESOTA DR., ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

\$85 per night plus tax  
 special rate available two nights:  
 April 2-4, 2020

reservation deadline: March 19, 2020  
 for reservations email:  
[lqla03054@gmail.com](mailto:lqla03054@gmail.com)

**Relentless and Unshakable Pursuit**

who's your  
**1 ONE?**

# MILEPOST MOMENTS

The staff of the Alaska Baptist Resource Network reserves the right to edit submitted information for content and space.

## First Baptist Church, Fairbanks.

will be celebrating their 75th anniversary in 2020. If you have memories to share please email [info@firstbaptistfairbanks.com](mailto:info@firstbaptistfairbanks.com). You may also visit <https://firstbaptistfairbanks.com/75th-diamond-jubilee> to share a memory or photo.

## First Baptist Church, Petersburg.

is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. If you have memories or photos to share, they would love to have them. Please send them to Shannon Midkiff at [esmidkiff@gci.net](mailto:esmidkiff@gci.net) or mail them to her at PO Box 1728, Petersburg, AK 99833 as soon as possible as she is compiling a booklet. Your contributions will be much appreciated.

## New Hope Baptist Church.

Anchorage, will be celebrating their 60th anniversary on April 25-25, 2020. The work accomplished in the Mountain View Community during these years is unprecedented. They are the site for the mobile food pantry in partnership with the Food Bank of Alaska; a sponsor for the annual community thanksgiving dinner; and the weekly clothes give-away serves as a lifeline to many citizens. Please join in celebration by your attendance at the celebration, by donations to the educational William B. Lyons scholarship fund, or by buying an ad in the the souvenir booklet. For more information please email [ne-whope@newhopebaptistchurchak.com](mailto:ne-whope@newhopebaptistchurchak.com).

## Grandview Baptist Church

is hosting a skills camp, led by a mission team from Shorter College in Georgia. The camp is a four day event for ages 4 years through 8th grade. The schedule is 4:30 to 6:30 Saturday, February 29, and Monday through Wednesday, March 2-4. Dinner is included. To pre-register call 907-276-6027

Sunday, March 1, there will be a teen worship night from 5 to 8.



**Meet the newest Alaska BRN staff member**

Heather Mount joined the staff of the Alaska Baptist Resource Network February 5. She works part-time as Administrative Assistant to Jae McKee and Jimmy Stewart. You may welcome Heather at [heather@alaskabrn.com](mailto:heather@alaskabrn.com)

## University Baptist Church, Fairbanks

ordained Grady Cox, the son of Pastor Gary Cox, December 29, following a potluck supper after the morning service. Pastor Grady Cox is the Associate Pastor with the official title of "Pastor of Spiritual Growth and Ministries' Development. He graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, and in 2018 with an Advanced Master of Divinity. He is currently working on a Doctorate of Ministry in Pastoral Leadership at the same seminary.

The Young Adults group at University Baptist Church, Fairbanks will be holding their annual Spring Retreat at Globe Creek Camp March 6-8. A special speaker, Brad Kirby, Pastor of First Baptist church of Woodbridge, Virginia is being brought up for the event.

## Condolences

Our condolences to Cathy (Paul) Arns, bookkeeper for Chugach Baptist Association, and her brothers, Michael (Marie), Bruce (Sue), and Kevin (Shonda) Cannon in the loss of their mother, Colleen Cannon, on February 4, 2020. A service was held on February 13 in Anchorage, Alaska. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to [cathyfbc@gci.net](mailto:cathyfbc@gci.net).



## Faith Recovery Fellowship

partnered in 2018 with Great Commission Alaska in the Kings Lodge Project located roughly 55 miles down river on the Big Su. The purpose of Kings Lodge is to provide a re-entry transitional housing and discipleship program for ex-incarcerated native Alaskan men as they return to village life. In 2019 Hatcher Pass Baptist Association donated to Faith Recovery Fellowship an 18.5 ft Woolridge River Boat for the purpose of providing transportation for residents and supplies to the remote location. The boat has been and will be used to aid in the ministry of Kings Lodge.

Randy Covington, Executive Director



## In Memoriam...



On the morning of February 12, 2020, Tommy Wayne Covington, 84, of Granbury, Texas, left the restraints of life on earth to join his Lord and Savior in heaven. He is now reunited with

his wife of 63 years, Nancy Ann Covington, who preceded him in death in 2017. In honor of Tom's life, a celebration of life service was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, at Lakeside Baptist Church in Granbury

Tom was born in Marfa, Texas, on August 15, 1935, to William Starling "Jack" Covington and Eunice Evaline Dowell Covington. He married his first and only love, Nancy Ann Miller on June 26, 1954, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. They went to Alaska as newlyweds and stayed until retirement. He worked as a propeller mechanic, owning his own business as well as working for 31 years in civil service with the United States Air Force. He was ordained as a deacon in 1964 and loved singing in the choir at church and leading worship in churches and revival services. All five children and some of their grandchildren were born in Alaska. They homesteaded 40

acres and helped establish Montana Creek Baptist Church in the area of the homestead.

Since retiring to Granbury, Texas in 1995 he has been a member, deacon, and greeter at Lakeside Baptist Church. He lived his life in honor of his Lord and his family. His Christian legacy has been carried on through his children and grandchildren including some of whom have gone on to serve in full-time ministries in America and overseas. He leaves behind one brother, five children, twelve grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Tom's immediate survivors are an older brother, Lorenzo Ross Covington and wife Jimmie of Huntsville, Alabama; four sons, Randy and Robin Covington of Anchorage, Alaska; Kerry and Janet Covington of Itasca, TX; Allan and Jill Covington of Hartsville, SC; and Brad Covington of La Pine, OR; one daughter Tina Covington Barnwell and husband, Jerry, of Leander, TX.

Survivors include grandchildren, Adam, Corrie, Michelle, Eric, Chase, Cole, Candace, Colby, Callie, Karis, Brennan and Reegan. Great grandchildren are Emory, Everett, Grace, Madelyn, Cami, Sadie, Davis, Sean and Conner.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alaska Baptist Convention, State Missions Offering (Valeria Sheppard) at 1750 O'Malley Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99507 or online [here](#).





**Jae McKee, State Director of Church Planting and Missions**

## Challenges in our world

Greetings from Cold Bay, Alaska! As I write tonight, we are experiencing winds in excess of 80 miles per hour coupled with an impressive amount of rain and the forecast indicates that the storm will only intensify over the next day or so. There were ten of us present at Cold Bay Chapel this morning who studied the first chapter of Ephesians and celebrated the blessings that we are: **1. Chosen by the Father 2. Redeemed by the Son and 3. Sealed by the Spirit!**

Across our great state today people gathered, despite extreme weather, to worship and celebrate our risen Savior Jesus Christ. Please read the words and prayers of one of our families who minister in challenging conditions along the Kobuk river:

Dear Friends and Family,

Waiting for the earth to tilt. That sums up this season in the arctic. The weather topic is about basic survival, having enough wood or stove oil, keeping babies warm. It has been a really cold season. -40s are norms lately, and colder is not unexpected. Warming the church building is difficult, deciding not to attend church, or anything is that much easier for people. Can the weather affect your spiritual growth? At very least it challenges mine! And I don't think I am alone.

It seems like a wave of ministry has come and gone since the last letter. Meaningful conversations, and even multiple ladies' bible studies opened up for me here in Shungnak. Youth opportunities seemed on the rise. Luke was being stretched with back and forth driving between villages, yet there were many good trail visits along with all that movement. Opportunity and open doors pointed to church growth and exciting developments.

Now... a lot of that has been challenged by the cold weather. Church attendance is down (understandably), Bible studies have become less attended, and it is hard to have a conversation with anyone when covered up in so many layers. I carry the youngest kids on my back in my parka whenever they go out. Last time I took Meriah out it had warmed up to -20, and she had not been out in over 10 days. She whispered in my ear as I hurried to the Post Office, "Mom, when we get back can we stay outside and dance in the beautiful snow?" A sign of cabin fever to be sure.

However, God is not stopped by ice, cabin fevers, or cold wind. The one who walked on the storm waves also works through the blizzards. Oh Lord, let us see Your works and

glorify Your Name! It is astonishing where God's footprints in people's lives show up. Luke and I are encouraged to see God working in hearts we thought too cold.

Some requests:

- 1) Our kids. They are facing prejudice and bullying on their basketball team. Please pray for wisdom and safety and that God will turn evil to good.
- 2) Our transition back to Kobuk is coming up soon. Please pray we go at the right time and make the adjustment as a family well
- 3) Please pray that I can continue my relationships with women here. One lady has said she is not ready to follow God right now. Please pray I can still find ways to demonstrate His love and invitation to her.
- 4) Women in domestic violence situations. I am crying out to God for a chance to help someday soon.
- 5) Men seeking God in Kobuk. Praise God they are! Pray they will see that freedom is truly theirs in Christ.
- 6) Summer work planning. There are some Bible camps we might be involved in, Northern Ministry Training we help run, church roof projects, and all the travel that involves. Pray we have the help we need for what God wants done....when our side of the earth tilts toward the sun.

Waiting for the promise of spring, working for the promise of the kingdom,

Sarah, Luke,

Desarose, Isaak, Shoshannah, Quya, Meirah, and Levi.

As our daylight begins to increase and evidence of spring shows itself with the sighting of willow buds and the song of chickadees, some of us start to look forward to a new season of fishing. I pray that our desire to become "fishers of men" is greater than our desire to become fishers of fish. Read the following for some encouragement to go fishing.

### A Plea for Fishing

Now it came to pass that a group existed who called themselves fishermen. And lo, there were many fish in the waters all around. In fact, the whole area was surrounded by streams and lakes filled with fish. And the fish were hungry.

Week after week, month after month, and year after year, these who called themselves fishermen met in meetings and talked about their call to fish, the abundance of fish, and how they might go about fishing. Year after year they carefully defined what fishing means, defended fishing as an occupation, and declared that fishing is always to be a primary task of fishermen.

Continually, they searched for new and better methods of fishing and for new and better definitions of fishing. Further they said, 'the fishing industry exists by fishing as fire exists by burning. They loved slogans such as "Fishing is the task of every fisherman. They sponsored special meetings called "Fishermen's Campaigns" and 'the Month for Fishermen to Fish'. They sponsored costly nationwide and world-wide congresses to discuss fishing and to promote fishing and hear about all the ways of fishing such as the new fishing equipment, fish calls, and whether any new bait had been discovered.

These fishermen built large, beautiful buildings called "Fishing Headquarters." The plea was that everyone should be a fisherman and every fisherman should fish. One thing they didn't do, however: They didn't fish.

In addition to meeting regularly, they organized a board to send out fishermen to other places where there were many fish. The board hired staffs and appointed committees and held many meetings to define fishing, to defend fishing, and to decide what new streams should be thought about. But the staff and committee members did not fish.

Large, elaborate, and expensive training centers were built whose original and primary purpose was to teach fishermen how to fish. Over the years courses were offered on the needs of fish, the nature of fish, where to find fish, the psychological reactions of fish, and how to approach and feed fish. Those who taught had doctorates in fishology, but the teachers did not fish. They only taught fishing. Year after year, after tedious training, many were graduated and were given fishing licenses. They were sent to do full-time fishing, some to distant waters which were filled with fish.

Many who felt the call to be fishermen responded. They were commissioned and sent to fish. But like the fishermen back home, they never fished. Like the fishermen back home, they engaged in all kinds of other occupations. They built power plants to pump water for fish and tractors to plow new waterways. They made all kinds of equipment to travel here and there to look at fish hatcheries. Some also said that they wanted to be part of the fishing party, but they felt called to furnish fishing equipment. Others felt their job was to relate to the fish in a good way so the fish would know the difference between good and bad fishermen. Others felt that simply letting the fish know they were nice, land-loving neighbors and how loving and kind they were was enough.

After one stirring meeting on 'the Necessity for Fishing, one young fellow left the meeting and went fishing. The next day he reported that he had caught two outstanding fish. He was honored for his excellent catch and scheduled to visit all the big meetings possible to tell how he did it. So he quit his fishing in order to have time to tell about the experience to the other fishermen. He was also placed on the Fishermen's General Board as a person having considerable experience.

Now it's true that many of the fishermen sacrificed and put up with all kinds of difficulties. Some lived near the water and bore the smell of dead fish every day. They received the ridicule of some who made fun of their fishermen's clubs and the fact that they claimed to be fishermen yet never fished. They wondered about those who felt it was of little use to attend the weekly meetings to talk about fishing. After all, were they not following the Master who said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men?"

Imagine how hurt some were when one day a person suggested that those who don't catch fish were really not fishermen, no matter how much they claimed to be. Yet it did sound correct. Is a person a fisherman if, year after year, he never catches a fish? Is one following if he isn't fishing?

Darrell W. Robinson, *People Sharing Jesus*, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1995), pp. 21-23

Taken from:

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermon-illustrations/23527/a-plea-for-fishing-by-steve-greene>





# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

— MAR • APR • MAY —

## March

- 1-8 Week of Prayer and  
Mission Study for North American Missions and  
the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 15 Church Planting Emphasis
- 28 Governor's Prayer Breakfast

## April

- 2-4 Women On Mission Celebration at  
First Baptist Church, Anchorage
- 12 Easter
- 18 TVBA VBS training clinic,  
First Baptist Church, North Pole, 9-12
- 20 HPBA VBS training clinic,  
CrossRoads Baptist Church (formerly Schrock Road  
Baptist Church), Wasilla, 5:30-8:30
- 21 CBA VBS training clinic,  
Sunset Hills Baptist Church, Anchorage, 5:30-8:30
- 23-25 Ministers and Spouses Retreat

## May

- 4-5 AKBRN Executive Board Meeting
- 7 ABF Board of Directors Meeting
- 7 National Day of Prayer
- 10 Day of Prayer for Birchwood Behavioral Health
- 25 AKBRN and ABF offices closed for Memorial Day

*Please Pray for  
our Pastorless Churches*

Aquillaq Baptist Mission, Ambler  
Chinese Fellowship, Fairbanks  
Cold Bay Chapel  
Community Baptist Church, Coffman Cove  
First Baptist Church, Anchorage  
First Baptist Church, Petersburg  
Ketchikan Filipino Baptist Mission  
Riverside Chapel, King Salmon  
Shungnak Baptist Mission



**DAYLIGHT  
SAVING TIME**

SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD

**SUNDAY, MARCH 8**

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