

HAPPY  
**Father's**  
DAY

≡ SUNDAY, JUNE 21 ≡

...with

**ENDURANCE**

Hebrews 12:1



Alaska Baptist Resource Network

**75<sup>th</sup>** ANNUAL  
MEETING

Monday- Wednesday, September 28-30, 2020  
First Baptist Church, Anchorage

**CAPTAIN COOK HOTEL**

939 W 5th Avenue, Anchorage

Rate: \$145 per night, single or double occupancy  
rate available 3 days pre/post; based on availability  
call 1-800-843-1950

reference Alaska Baptist Resource Network to capture special rate

OR

[Alaska Baptist Resource Network-AKBRN](#)

Group code: AKBRN

**THE VOYAGER INN**

501 K Street, Anchorage

Rate: \$125 single/double occupancy  
rate includes complimentary hot buffet breakfast  
rate available 3 days pre/post; based on availability  
call 907-277-9501 or 1-800-843-1950

OR

[Alaska Baptist Resource Network-VAKBRN](#)

Group Code: VAKBRN



**Randy Covington, Executive Director**

## The Building Is Open—So What Have We Learned?

“Hallelujah, we can go back to church!” While I most heartily agree with this sentiment and look forward to rekindling close fellowship with our church family, I find myself contemplating the lessons I have learned during the shutdown. Common routines changed overnight, and I was forced to consider things that I never imagined before: things like buying groceries online and picking them up curbside; wearing a mask that is hard to breath through; not shaking hands or hugging close friends; standing in long lines that I hadn’t seen since my days in Russia. Every day brought new opportunities to adapt to something unfamiliar.

Many pastors and church leaders have expressed how surprised they were by the amount of views they received with online services. I have been soberly aware of the fact that the digital age has been slowly invading our cultural systems, however during the pandemic shutdown, it went into warp speed. In many ways, it is hard to go back to the way it was and perhaps that is a good thing.

I recently attended a webinar called **Church Disrupt** and heard Clay Scroggins, a pastor in Atlanta say, “Convenience is trumping community!” While my initial re-

action was negative, I couldn’t refute the fact that he is right. He went on to say that doesn’t take away from the importance of community but should alert us to the way we attempt to bring people into community (the church). He used another term, the digital foyer, that also elicited a groan. However, I believe he is right on when he suggests that most people, looking to connect with a faith community, will visit the digital foyer before they enter the church foyer.

That fact carries significant implications for the future of the church if we want to reach our culture. The church needs to ask these questions, “What does our digital foyer look like? Is it friendly and welcoming? Does it motivate people to want to explore our community?” But let us not forget that the convenience of the digital tools cannot replace community.

As we move back to some sense of normalcy in the weeks and months ahead, this is a great opportunity for the church to evaluate the way we do church. Let’s resolve to leverage the disruption and come out of this stronger, more resilient, and poised for reaping the whirlwind that was thrust upon us.



**Jimmy Stewart, State Director of Evangelism and Church Development**

## The Covid-19 Opportunity

Most of us are tired of hearing about COVID-19. I want it to go away. I want to return to normal. I want there to be no more press briefings, and no more news reports about the numbers and the economic impact. What I want most is for the body of Christ to return some sense of normalcy. But, wait, what is normal for the bride of our Beloved? What is God doing in the midst of all the changes and rules with this virus?

Churches and leaders are surprising me at their ability to find new ways to connect via technology. Who would have thought churches would be so prevalent on the web? Facebook and YouTube are great free options for churches as they seek ways to quickly have a presence with their congregations. There are a number of paid services: Boxcast, DaCast, LiveStream, SermonVast and Vimeo are just a few that offer a variety of professional approaches for a church to be online. Many that I have talked with are satisfied with free web-casting providers. We may think this is going away, so why invest in something we may never use again

We do not want to miss the opportunity this may present us. We have learned a new way to “be with” people. This crisis has taught us to be innovative and tenacious. We are able to connect with those we are teaching in an effective manner. We can share presentations, video clips, and pictures that help the teaching. There are breakout rooms and chats for added flexibility. Some of you may be thinking,

“I just want to preach,” “I just want to teach.” But, let’s look at the opportunities presented. Viewership online is way up. Why? Obviously people have to be online. But, it goes way beyond this. People have found a fascination with using the computer to connect in the comfort of their own homes, and they are connecting broadly. From Zoom to FB Live, churches are now connecting with others on a more intentional and frequent basis. Some pastors are doing regular live Facebook events and have people tuning in everyday for devotionals. More Jesus, more Word and more connection is happening while the pastor never leaves his office. All of the services and sermons recorded are having a continued presence on the web. The biggest upside to all of this is that we are connecting with more people because we are speaking their language.

Some things we see churches doing mid-COVID I hope we see continue post-Covid: Outdoor services in the parking lot; online baptisms and communion; outreach through appreciation to first responders; seeking wellness of the city (finding and promoting wellness in the local community; food banks that were not there before; churches improving their websites and online services to relate to the number of people visiting first online; new Bible study groups and people groups reached through Zoom and other platforms. I believe we can take this virus and look at ways our churches and ministry can become viral!

submitted by Debra Long, Operation and Finance Administrator, ABC

1. Unanimously approved the November 11, 2019, Executive Board Meeting Minutes.
2. Unanimously approved to change the Policies and Procedures Manual Part 3, Article XX to read as follows:  
  
XX. CHRISTMAS LOVE GIFT  
  
The Executive Board of the Alaska Baptist Convention will allow a Christmas Love Gift for each permanent employee as follows: \$500 for full-time employees, and \$250 for permanent part-time employees. This action will take effect immediate upon Executive Board approval.
3. Unanimously approved to change the Policies and Procedures Manual Part 2, Article VII FINANCIAL, language from “Term Life insurance is valued at four times salary and housing” to “Term life insurance is valued at \$50,000.” This action will take effect immediate upon Executive Board approval.
4. Unanimously approved the March 2020 Financial Reports. A copy of the March 2020 can be found in the master file of the May 5, 2020, Executive Board Meeting.
5. Unanimously approved the 2021 Proposed Budget to present at the 75th Annual Meeting. A copy of the 2021 Proposed Budget can be found in the master file of the May 5, 2020, Executive Board Meeting.
6. Unanimously approved to set the special offering goals as follows: Valeria Sherard State Mission Offering (VSSMO) to be \$90,000; Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to be \$150,000; and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering to be \$95,000.
7. Unanimously approved a one-time grant from the Statewide Missions Account 8196 to Riverside Chapel, King Salmon, Alaska of \$1,875 to assist in the transfer of DOT land lease from First Baptist Church of Wasilla to Riverside Chapel, King Salmon, Alaska.
8. Approved to amend the allowable use of earmarked Church Strengthening Funds (\$25,025) to create a Statewide Relief Fund and allocate \$25,000 from the State Missions Fund to be added to the \$25,025 Statewide Relief Fund to be available to qualifying ABRN churches for assistance in hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications will be made available online or in-office for grants of up to \$1,000 per church. This offer will be made to all Southern Baptist churches in Alaska that are currently affiliated with the ABRN and will be approved on a first come, first served basis. The Statewide Missions Account has a current balance of \$147,461.79. The motion passed with an 11 yes, 5 no vote.
9. Unanimously approved to assign First Baptist Church, Kenai as the first-quarter 2021 recipient of the 2000 Club Call.
10. Unanimously approved to align annual accounting and time period of collection for Valeria Sherard State Mission Offering, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to a calendar year January 1 – December 31 and to maintain emphasis of these three offerings consistent with dates in Bylaws / Policies and Procedures.
11. Unanimously approved the theme of this year’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration which will be held at First Baptist Church, Anchorage to be “**with Endurance**” with the theme verse being Hebrews 12:1 “*Therefore, since we have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us.*” And, that the dedication of the Book of Reports honor Earl and Shannon Midkiff who have served in Alaska since 1966.

## MILEPOST MOMENTS

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

Our condolences to the family of Kenneth Chadwick who died May 4, 2020. He served Alaska Baptists as state Director of Missions in the 1990s. He later served as interim pastor in Kenai and Juneau.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to his wife, Barbara, at [alivn.chadwick@gmail.com](mailto:alivn.chadwick@gmail.com).

Our condolences to the family of Van Stogsdill who died May 8, 2020. He was a member of First Baptist Church, Soldotna, where he was a deacon and adult Sunday school teacher.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to his wife, Ruby, at [rubystogsdill@gmail.com](mailto:rubystogsdill@gmail.com).





YOUR ENDOWMENT AT WORK FOR ETERNAL PURPOSES.

The Alaska Baptist Foundation, Inc. is the trust agency of the Alaska Baptist Resource Network.

The purpose of the Foundation is to raise, invest and manage endowment funds; in so doing, to provide income for the support of Alaska and Southern Baptist agencies, institutions, and causes.

Visit our website to find information on stewardship, estate planning, and planned giving.

www.abf.foundation

January-April 2020 Gifts from ABC Churches

Table with columns: Organization, CP, SMO, AA, LM, WH, Total. Lists 100+ churches and their contributions for the period.

January-April 2020 Gifts from ABC Churches

Summary table of gifts from ABC Churches, including quarterly breakdown for 2020 and 2019, and club call receipts.

Legend: CP: Cooperative Program; SMO: Valeria Sherard State Mission Offering; AA: Annie Armstrong Easter Offering; LM: Lottie Moon Christmas Offering; WH: World Hunger

Alaska Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Support

Comparison table of Cooperative Program Support between 2020 and 2019, showing April Receipts, CP Goal, and Variance.

Thank you

Because of your congregation's Cooperative Program giving through the Alaska Baptist Resource Network, in April 2020 \$42,156.33 remained in Alaska for missions and ministries.

\$3912.50 has been received for 1st Q 2020\* Cold Bay Community Chapel \*as of 04/31/20

2867.50 has been received for 2nd Q 2020\* Non-requested, to be assigned later \*as of 04/31/20

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN — JUN • JUL • AUG —

June

9-10 **CANCELLED: SBC annual meeting Orlando**

Please Pray for  
our Pastorless Churches

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

**We are still accepting gifts to the First Quarter 2000 Club.**  
Due to the change of secretaries, the first quarter informational mailing was not made in 2020.



**2000 CLUB**  
SECOND QUARTER 2020

SECOND QUARTER FUNDS WILL BE  
DESIGNATED TO THE NON-REQUESTED  
FUND TO BE ASSIGNED, AS NEEDED,  
AT A LATER DATE.

The graphic features three traffic cones of varying sizes (a small one on the left, a medium one in the center, and a large one on the right) against a yellow background.



**2000 Club**  
First Quarter 2020

Cold Bay Community Chapel  
The parsonage needs an arctic entry and staircase on the front. Damaged flooring needs to be replaced in the living area, hallways and bathroom. Four wired smoke alarms need to be acquired and installed. The pantry and kitchen storage areas will be finished, two bathrooms remodeled and soffit ventilation installed.

The graphic features two wrenches (one on the left and one on the right) against an orange background.

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Alaska Baptist Resource Network