



Alaska Baptist Messenger



The Alaska Baptist Convention is congregations cooperating together to **SEEK** Christ, **SHARE** Christ, **STRENGTHEN** congregations, **START** congregations and **SEND** Christians.



Merry Christmas

from the staff of the Alaska Baptist Convention and Foundation

pictured l to r (back row): Jimmy Stewart, Alan Dial, Adam Long, Mike Procter, Eugene Ward, Butch Strickland; (front row): Debra Long, Betsy Shilling, Sylvia Rylander

OBEYDIENT

HIS **HEART** / HIS **HANDS** / HIS **VOICE**

**Your Cooperative Program giving
impacts Alaska churches....**



At Sunset Hills Baptist Church, we are committed to fulfilling the Great Commission and our support of the Cooperative Program (CP) provides the opportunity to partner with others who have the same commitment. We must share the gospel message at home, with our nation and around the world.

In Ecclesiastes 4:9 God tells us "two people are better than one, because they get more done by working together." When you work as a team, you get so much more done. Plus, having good teammates alongside you is a whole lot more fun and less tiring.



*Pastor Don and Carri
Shannon*

Picture this: individually, each of us is like a snowflake; on our own, we can't make a big difference but, when one fragile snowflake sticks together with a lot of other snowflakes, it can literally change the life of our city. Like snowflakes, we can make a big difference if we work together, each one of us doing our part.

The CP is the means by which churches have the opportunity to work together as a team. Because of our gifts, Southern Baptists are able to help more than 10,000 missionaries stay on the field. Additionally, as a member of the Southern Baptist CP team, our church has a hand in the training and education of more than 16,000 students at our six seminaries who are future missionaries, pastors, and church leaders.

Our gifts to the CP are also used here in Alaska. From its humble beginnings in our state, more than \$750,000 was given to CP in 2010. These dollars represent lives that have been transformed by the gospel message. Because of our team effort, communities from Kotzebue to Ketchikan are impacted by the gifts given to share the gospel.

I can't think of a greater privilege than being a part of a team like the Cooperative Program, where we can rejoice in our efforts to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

God's Plan for Sharing in Alaska

Organization	CP	SMO	AA	LM	WH	Total
Chugach Baptist Association						
Alaska Ju-Mienh First Bapt Church	\$216.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$216.50
Anch Hope Comm Bapt Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Aquillaq Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Calvary Baptist Church	\$4,146.45	\$302.00	\$1,027.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,475.95
Christ Community Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Chugach Resort Ministries	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cliffside Community Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cold Bay Chapel	\$1,732.92	\$310.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,442.92
Comm Baptist Church, Nome	\$704.00	\$0.00	\$633.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,337.00
Cowboy Church of Anchorage	\$1,283.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,283.00
Eagle River Korean Bapt Church	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Filipino Bible Church	\$1,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,750.00
First Baptist Church, Anchorage	\$45,958.64	\$3,105.00	\$8,674.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$57,738.08
First Baptist Church, Eagle River	\$28,242.61	\$1,755.00	\$7,003.00	\$400.00	\$295.75	\$37,696.36
First Baptist Church, Kotzebue	\$1,150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,150.00
First Baptist Church, Soldotna	\$9,144.00	\$0.00	\$875.00	\$0.00	\$84.27	\$10,103.27
First Hmong Baptist Church	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
First Korean Baptist Church	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$306.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,206.00
First Native Baptist Church	\$4,384.00	\$0.00	\$541.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,925.00
Frontier Baptist Church	\$3,274.97	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,274.97
Gilead Ministries	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
Grandview Baptist Church	\$29,648.67	\$1,840.00	\$7,382.00	\$505.00	\$70.00	\$39,445.67
Greater Friendship Bapt Church	\$7,246.88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,246.88
Hillside Baptist Church	\$12,426.19	\$280.00	\$690.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,396.19
Immanuel Baptist Church	\$1,089.77	\$665.00	\$200.00	\$260.00	\$0.00	\$2,214.77
Kiana Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kobuk Baptist Mission	\$185.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$185.00
Korean New Central Bapt Church	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,300.00
Mtn View Community Church	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Muldoon Road Baptist Church	\$9,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,250.00
New Grace Christian Church	\$2,650.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,650.00
New Hope Baptist Church	\$9,988.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,988.00
Rabbit Creek Community Church	\$3,333.70	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,333.70
River In The Desert Comm Church	\$1,517.00	\$0.00	\$72.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,589.00
Samoa Alaska Baptist Church	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
Sand Point Baptist Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shungnak Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Solid Rock Baptist Church	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$650.00
Sunset Hills Baptist Church	\$19,502.45	\$2,287.00	\$3,658.00	\$0.00	\$500.50	\$25,947.95
The Church of New Beginnings	\$151.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$151.80
The Crossing @ Birchwood	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00
True North Church	\$5,625.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,625.00
University Baptist Church	\$9,218.28	\$750.00	\$1,861.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,829.28
Valley View Baptist Church	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Whittier Christian Community	\$290.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$315.00
Total	\$224,759.83	\$12,969.00	\$37,472.94	\$1,165.00	\$950.52	\$277,317.29
Hatcher Pass Baptist Association						
Big Lake Baptist Church	\$10,039.15	\$2,217.00	\$1,741.00	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$14,122.15
Bodenberg Butte Baptist Church	\$5,811.45	\$270.00	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,431.45
CrossCountry Church	\$1,350.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,850.00
Dillingham Bible Fellowship	\$6,102.21	\$0.00	\$2,650.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,752.21
Ekwo Christian Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fairview Loop Baptist Church	\$17,624.63	\$0.00	\$2,940.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,565.53
First Baptist Church, Palmer	\$14,999.94	\$0.00	\$1,890.67	\$231.00	\$0.00	\$17,121.61
First Baptist Church, Valdez	\$17,227.55	\$1,394.07	\$2,944.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,565.62
First Baptist Church, Wasilla	\$24,813.80	\$0.00	\$2,355.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,169.30
First Baptist Church, Willow	\$3,616.25	\$0.00	\$296.67	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,912.92
King Salmon Comm Chapel	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$65.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$365.00
Montana Creek Baptist Church	\$2,943.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,943.92
North Bear Street Comm Church	\$66.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$66.00
Pioneer Baptist Church of Wasilla	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$340.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$340.00
Schrock Road Community Church	\$3,692.81	\$356.10	\$949.00	\$526.20	\$0.00	\$5,524.11
Settler's Bay Community Church	\$4,702.11	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,702.11
Wasilla Korean Baptist Church	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Total	\$113,789.82	\$4,487.17	\$17,272.74	\$882.20	\$0.00	\$136,431.93
Kenai Peninsula						
College Heights Baptist Church	\$37,752.92	\$0.00	\$3,669.00	\$5,499.80	\$0.00	\$46,921.72
First Baptist Church, Kenai	\$4,554.55	\$70.00	\$289.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,913.55
Lighthouse Community Church	\$10,881.67	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,381.67
Moose Pass Community Church	\$356.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$356.00
Mount Redoubt Baptist Church	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
Total	\$53,845.14	\$70.00	\$6,958.00	\$5,499.80	\$0.00	\$66,372.94

January-October 2012 Gifts from ABC Churches

Organization	CP	SMO	AA	LM	WH	Total
Other						
Misc. Contributors-Cash	\$393.00	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$140.00	\$1,258.00
Total	\$393.00	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$140.00	\$1,258.00
Tanana Valley Baptist Association						
Clearwater Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cross Roads Baptist Church	\$12,045.00	\$0.00	\$1,387.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,432.00
Faith Baptist Church	\$3,325.00	\$0.00	\$1,144.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,469.00
First Baptist Church, Fairbanks	\$6,838.26	\$0.00	\$1,863.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,701.26
First Baptist Church, North Pole	\$23,261.53	\$1,951.00	\$1,246.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26,458.53
First Baptist Church, Delta Jct	\$38,025.00	\$0.00	\$2,593.00	\$625.00	\$0.00	\$41,243.00
Friendship Baptist Church	\$500.00	\$85.00	\$514.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,099.00
Hispanic Mission	\$325.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$825.00
Korean Baptist Mission	\$750.00	\$115.00	\$190.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,055.00
Moose Creek Baptist Church	\$8,092.21	\$336.27	\$270.07	\$0.00	\$238.46	\$8,937.01
Morning Star Baptist Church	\$7,045.10	\$0.00	\$955.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.10
Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	\$500.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$650.00
North Star Baptist Church	\$42.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$42.00
Salcha Baptist Church	\$6,474.27	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,974.27
Shannon Park Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$860.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$860.00
St. John Baptist Church	\$8,856.86	\$350.00	\$671.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,878.67
Togiak Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
UBC-Chinese Fellowship	\$640.20	\$305.00	\$245.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,190.20
University Baptist Church	\$15,579.00	\$985.00	\$5,387.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$22,001.00
Total	\$132,299.43	\$4,277.27	\$18,025.88	\$975.00	\$238.46	\$155,816.04
Tongass Baptist Association						
Anchor Baptist Church	\$4,002.01	\$160.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,262.01
Comm Bapt Church, Coffman Cove	\$2,332.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,332.00
Emmanuel Baptist Church	\$2,996.10	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,496.10
Filipino Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church, Juneau	\$8,309.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,309.46
First Baptist Church, Ketchikan	\$7,805.23	\$0.00	\$2,895.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,700.23
First Baptist Church, Petersburg	\$2,876.00	\$0.00	\$875.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,751.63
First Baptist Church, Sitka	\$7,300.44	\$0.00	\$52.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,353.01
Glacier Valley Baptist Church	\$17,237.50	\$0.00	\$3,662.00	\$3,586.85	\$0.00	\$24,486.35
Hoonah Baptist Mission	\$432.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$432.00
Juneau Korean Church	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$335.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$635.00
Kasaan Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Hope Fellowship	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$151.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$851.00
North Tongass Baptist Church	\$227.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$227.50
Tenakee Community Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Thorne Bay Baptist Church	\$557.21	\$0.00	\$162.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$719.71
Total	\$55,075.45	\$160.00	\$8,733.70	\$3,586.85	\$0.00	\$67,556.00
Grand Total	\$580,162.67	\$22,188.44	\$88,463.26	\$12,608.85	\$1,328.98	\$704,752.20
Goals	\$720,322.00	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$160,000.00		
Over/Under Goal	\$(140,159.33)	\$(67,811.56)	\$(1,536.74)	\$(147,391.15)		

Legend:

CP:	Cooperative Program, January - December
SMO:	Valeria Sherard State Mission Offering, August - July
AA:	Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, January - December
LM:	Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, June - May
WH:	World Hunger, January - December

Quarterly Goal is \$20,000 • 2,000 ppl x \$10



Received as of October 31, 2012:

First Quarter 2012	\$6184
Second Quarter 2012	\$6829
Third Quarter 2012	\$6895
Fourth Quarter 2012	\$4989

It takes just 2,000 gifts of \$10 each quarter to accomplish the quarterly goal of \$20,000. Won't you join us and be part of expanding God's Kingdom in Alaska?

There are currently 206 regular contributors...imagine how much more we could do with an additional 1794 contributors?

Alaska Baptist Convention

Welcome!

Paul (Glenda) Worsham
 Aquillaq Baptist Church
 John (Cindy) Bills
 Moose Creek Baptist Church
 Brent (Shirley) Newberry
 North Tongass Baptist Church
 Paul (Sharon) Wells
 Shannon Park Baptist Church

Please Pray for our Pastorless Churches

Chugach Baptist Association

Chugach Resort Ministries
 Kiana Baptist Mission
 Mountain View Community Church
 New Hope Baptist Church
 Shungnak Baptist Mission
 The Church of New Beginnings
 University Baptist Church

Hatcher Pass Baptist Association

Ekwok Christian Church
 King Salmon Comm Baptist Chapel

Kenai Peninsula

First Baptist Church, Kenai
 Moose Pass Community Church

Tanana Valley Baptist Association

Chinese Fellowship
 Friendship Baptist Church
 North Star Baptist Church

Tongass Baptist Association

Hoonah Baptist Mission

Women on Mission Celebration April 11-13, 2013

Alaska Baptist Messenger

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Send address changes to *The Alaska Baptist Messenger*,

Mike Procter, Editor; Betsy Shilling,

Associate Editor

1750 O'Malley Road, Anchorage, AK 99507

2013 State Evangelism Conference

Faithful through the Storms

January 28-29 • First Baptist Church, Anchorage

“... ‘Master, Master, we’re going to die!’ Then He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves. So they ceased, and there was calm. He said to them, ‘Where is your faith?’” Luke 8:24-25a (HCSB)

Featured Guests:

Fred Luter, Jr.

*President, Southern Baptist Convention and
Senior Pastor, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church
New Orleans*

Dennis Watson

*Lead Pastor, Celebration Church
Metairie, Louisiana*

Dr. Mark Foley

President, University of Mobile Alabama

Aaron Coe

*Vice President of Mobilization
North American Mission Board*

Dwight Fitch

*Worship Leader, Celebration Church
Metairie, Louisiana*

Vicki Watson

*Women’s Ministry Director, Celebration Church
Metairie, Louisiana*

Monday: Noon - 4:30 p.m.
(lunch included with reservation)
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - Noon
(lunch included with reservation)
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Hotel reservation deadline is NOON, January 14
(cost is \$79 sgl/dbl; \$89 tri; \$99 quad. Taxes to be included)
Hotel is Clarion Suites Downtown

Meal/Childcare reservation deadline is NOON, January 24
(please note childcare is available for children ages birth-K ONLY)

Sign up at www.alaskabaptistconvention.com

Where does the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering go once it leaves your church?

100% used to support missionaries

90% used for direct expenses like missionary salaries, housing, food, children’s education and benefits **10%** used for ministry support

Embracing the unengaged

Grace* shakes her head. Feathered earrings dance, framing her face with motion and color. She is a member of one of the indigenous tribes of South America and is talking about the future of her people.

There are outsiders who would keep them in something of a museum — as living history, she says — stuck in a time that has not been a reality for several generations. It’s not what she wants. Yet the identity of her people in the global community is not an easy issue.

She wants her people to move ahead — to “win.” She wants them to take advantage of all that is going on about them while retaining the best of their

culture.

Gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering allow IMB personnel to iden-



tify and understand these often forgotten people, offering Southern Baptist churches committed to embracing unengaged, unreached peoples a basis for beginning their work among them.

For \$100, a worker can purchase a water filtration bottle needed when

trekking through the jungles of South America to find the nearly 400 tribes that have never heard the gospel. They also spend \$30 on waterproof bags needed to keep their Bibles and other materials dry.

Grace and her tribe are among 3,400 unengaged, unreached peoples across the world. Most will never have a missionary assigned to them, but with our gifts, we could find them and tell them the truth of Christ.

**Name has been changed.*





First Baptist Church, Kenai is searching for a **full-time pastor**. Mail resumes to P.O. Box 3412, Kenai, AK 99611 or e-mail resume to fbck@alaska.net. Applications will be accepted through December 31, 2012. Direct your questions to Gary Wherry, 907.394.7552.

Fairview Loop Baptist Church, Wasilla, Alaska is seeking a **part-time, bi-vocational youth pastor** (grades 7-12). Please include education and experience in resume. To apply please send your resume to Fairview Loop Baptist Church, 3118 W. Fairview Loop Road, Wasilla, AK 99654, email to flbc@mtaonline.net or fax to 907.373.7873.



Top Ten Giving Churches* to the Valeria Sherard State Mission Offering

First Baptist Church, Anchorage
Sunset Hills Baptist Church
First Baptist Church, Valdez
College Heights Baptist Church
Fairview Loop Baptist Church
First Baptist Church, Delta Jct.
Glacier Valley Baptist Church
Schrock Road Community Church
University Baptist Church, Anc
First Baptist Church, Palmer

*Reporting period August 2011-July 2012

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

MARK BEGICH
ALASKA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510
October 31, 2012

COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS,
ATMOSPHERE, FISHERIES AND COAST GUARD
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. Don Shannon
Mr. Michael Procter
Alaska Baptist Convention
1750 O'Malley Road
Anchorage, AK 99507-7303

Dear Mr. Shannon and Mr. Procter:


Thank you for providing me with a copy of your resolution from the Alaska Baptist Convention regarding gay and lesbian rights.

While we may disagree on this issue, I do appreciate hearing your point of view. The definition of marriage has traditionally been the right and responsibility of the states. As I'm sure you know, Alaska's Constitution prevents same-sex marriage.

In addition, like you, I totally oppose any form of religious persecution – no matter which groups are being victimized by intolerance.

Thanks again for the copy of your resolution.

Sincerely,


 Mark Begich
 United States Senator

This is the response from Senator Begich for the resolution sent to Senators Begich and Murkowski, Representative Young, Governor Parnell, and President Obama. (see the minutes on page 7 for the wording of the resolution.)

SUITE 750
510 L STREET
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501
(907) 271-5915

SUITE 328
101 12TH AVENUE
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701
(907) 459-0261

SUITE 308
ONE SEALASKA PLAZA
JUNEAU, AK 99801
(907) 688-7700

SUITE 101
805 FRONTAGE ROAD
KENAI, AK 99611
(907) 283-4000

SUITE 220
1900 FIRST AVENUE
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901
(907) 225-3000

SUITE 309
881 EAST WESTPOINT DRIVE
WASILLA, AK 99654
(907) 357-9956

SUITE 59-111
RUSSELL BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-3004

MILEPOST MOMENTS

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

Community Baptist Church, Nome

CBC hosted a "Harvest" party which was well attended. They are currently working on providing gifts for children who have mothers incarcerated at Anvil Mountain Correctional Facility.

First Baptist Church, Kenai

FBC is currently searching for a full time pastor, but in the meantime, Brian (Robin) Moore has been called as interim pastor.



King Salmon Community Baptist Chapel

Windows have been replaced in the facility and the basement area has been repainted. The congregation will hold their services in the basement during the winter months to conserve heating fuel. Members are looking forward to a combined effort with area churches to teach the importance of training children, parenting and choosing to have a Godly family.

Valley View Baptist Church,

Eagle River

Saturday, December 1, 4:00-7:00 p.m., the church will continue their monthly movie and game night outreach ministry. On Christmas Eve, they will combine with Eagle River Korean Baptist Church for a candlelight service. Pastor Hong Rae Lee will present the message and music will be provided by a joint church choir. December 27-28, 1:00-4:00 p.m., they will conduct a winter VBS for children on Christmas break from school. On December 30, the children will present their own original

production of the Christmas story—what it would look like if Jesus were born today. Visit the church website, www.vvbc.info for more information.

North Tongass Baptist Church

NTBC called Brent (Shirley) Newberry as pastor. The Newberrys formerly served at Ekwok Christian Church.

Moose Creek Baptist Church,

North Pole

John (Cindy) Bills has been called as pastor of MCBC. The Bills formerly served at Shannon Park Baptist Church in Fairbanks.

First Baptist Church, Petersburg

The youth of FBC led worship on November 7 by presenting "The Heavenly Express", a play with a strong salvation message. There was a packed house for the event and the youth did a wonderful job!

Shannon Park Baptist Church,

Fairbanks

SPBC has called Paul (Sharon) Wells as pastor and his first Sunday will be December 2. Paul has served as the Associational Director of Missions for Tanana Valley Baptist Association and has pastored at Friendship Baptist Church (Fairbanks), Bodenbug Butte Baptist Church and Sutton Baptist Mission.

Kobuk Baptist Mission

Mission Service Corps missionaries Luke and Sarah Stewart welcomed their daughter, Quya (pronounced "Koy-a") Grace into the family on November 5. She weighed 7 lbs, 13 oz and was 19.5" long. Quya is the Yupik Eskimo dialect word for "to be thankful."

University Baptist Church, Fairbanks

The December 2 evening service will be at Davis Concert Hall on the UAF campus,

as the bell choir participates in the UAF Holiday Concert. The women have begun a new Beth Moore Bible Study; DivorceCare resumes on December 9. There will also be a Christmas Celebration concert and Christmas Eve candlelight service.

Fairview Loop Baptist Church, Wasilla

FLBC serves lunch immediately following the morning worship service on the last Sunday of each month. The focus is FLBC missions. The church will celebrate their 30th anniversary on December 2. Work continues in the new sanctuary and they hope to be in it for Christmas. The choir will present "A Festival of Lessons and Carols" on December 16. They will also hold a Christmas Eve candlelight service.

First Baptist Church, Valdez

FBC had a successful Fall Festival with 100 in attendance. They had games, crafts, food and a pumpkin gospel presentation. On November 4, members prayed over and packed



Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes for distribution overseas. In four years, they have increased their shoeboxes from 72 to 211!



The Alaska Native Baptist Fellowship (ANBF) met for its annual conference in concert with the Alaska Baptist Convention Alaska Native Leadership Conference on 18-24 October at Sunset Hills Baptist Church in Anchorage. Guest speakers Gary Hawkins (director, Fellowship of Native American Christians) and Bruce Plummer (director, Montana Indian Ministries) challenged and encouraged the crowds each evening. Mae Moses (chairperson, ANBF) remarked on the success of the conference and the renewed passion and unity she witnessed during the three days.



Bruce Plummer,
Director, Montana Indian
Ministries



Gary Hawkins, Director,
Fellowship of Native American
Christians



Alan Dial, Alaska Native
Church Planter Catalyst



Alaska Native Baptist Fellowship Leadership Team, 2012-2015 (l to r): Mae Moses, Davis Hobson, Donna Fleury, Christine Craig, Russell Lamont, Alan Dial. Not pictured: Butch Strickland.

Summary of Board Actions, September 25, 2012

67th annual meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention

1. Approved the program of the 67th Annual Meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention (ABC) as printed.
2. Approved seating 143 messengers for the 67th Annual Meeting of ABC.
3. Approved the Committee on Committees' recommendation to elect John Bills, layperson of FBC North Pole, and Jeff Ling, layperson from FBC North Pole, to serve on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee with terms expiring in 2015. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee still has four vacancies that the ABC Executive Board needs to fill. The Committee on Committees recommended the following individuals to serve on the Resolutions Committee: Gordon Mills, pastor of Glacier Valley Baptist Church Juneau, and Pat Stringer, layperson FBC Juneau, with terms expiring 2013; Charles Lane, pastor of First Native Baptist Church Anchorage, and Dawn Richardson, layperson of FBC Valdez, with terms expiring 2014; and Virginia Beach, layperson of FBC North Pole, and Violet Warman, layperson of First Native Baptist Church Anchorage, with terms expiring 2015.
4. Approved amending Article VII, Sections 2 and 3 of the Constitution to read as follows:

SECTION 2. The standing committees shall have five (5) members elected to serve a three (3) year rotation term. The members shall be nominated by the Committee on Committees. The standing committees are: (1) Constitution and Bylaws and (2) Resolutions.

SECTION 3. The annual committees shall have five (5) members. The annual committees shall serve an annual term and shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the other officers within forty-five (45) days of the conclusion of the Annual Session. Appointed members shall be notified by the President of the Convention. The annual committees are: (1) Order of Business; (2) Credentials; (3) Time, Place, and Preacher; (4) Committee on Committees; and (5) Committee on Boards.
5. Approved the Committee on Boards recommendation to elect: (1) Charles Bridges (layperson of FBC, Anchorage), Mark Goodman (Pastor of Rabbit Creek Community Church, Anchorage), Larry Macknicki (layperson of FBC, Palmer), and Bryan Myers (Pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Fairbanks) to serve on the ABC Executive Board with terms expiring 2016; (2) Rhys Mateo (layperson of FBC, Juneau), Roberta Gastineau (layperson of FBC, Kotzebue), and Cory Pepiton (Student Ministries Pastor of Rabbit Creek Community Church, Anchorage) to serve first terms on the Alaska Baptist Family Services (ABFS) Board of Trustees with terms expiring 2015; and (3) Mark Johnston (layperson of Grandview Baptist Church) to serve a second term and Reid Schiewe (layperson of FBC, Palmer) to serve a first term for Alaska Baptist Foundation Board of Trustees with terms expiring 2015.
6. Approved the 2013 ABC Proposed Budget that was handed out (corrected from what was published in the 2013 Book of Reports).
7. Approved the motion for the Executive Board to increase funding of Account 5342 Church Assistance for the 2013 ABC Budget.
8. Approved the Time, Place, and Preacher Committee recommendations: (1) Assign Jimmie Stringer, pastor of FBC Juneau as Convention Preacher for the 68th Annual Convention to be held September 24-25, 2013 at Glacier Valley Baptist Church and Doug Edwards, pastor of FBC Ketchikan, as Alternate Preacher; and (2) Assign the date and location of the 70th Annual convention to be held September 28-30, 2015 at FBC, Palmer.
9. Adopted two resolutions: (1) to commend and support all Christians who, in the face of ridicule, slander and persecution, take a redemptive biblical stand, as specifically exemplified by Dan Cathy and the Chick-fil-A Corporation; and to commend and support all Christians and churches who minister redemptively to those persons enslaved by non-biblical sexuality issues and promise our prayerful support for all Christian ministries that seek to be instruments of God's redemption from all sin. (2) we express praise and gratitude to Pastor Mark Goodman and the staff and members of Rabbit Creek Community Church, Anchorage for being such great and wonderful host, and to the cooking and childcare team from churches in Georgia, Maryland, and North Carolina: Beverly Chamra, Greg Chamra, Mel Piper, Denise Wilhelm, and Larry Wilhelm for providing the food and childcare for this 67th Annual Convention.
10. Elected the following officers: Don Shannon (pastor of Sunset Hills Baptist Church, Anchorage) as president; Johnny McCoy (pastor of FBC, North Pole) as first vice president; Jack Sherman (member of FBC, Palmer) as second vice president; and Mary Sue Foster (member of Fairview Loop Baptist Church, Wasilla) as recording secretary.



Mike Procter
Executive Director

In the August 5, 2012 issue of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, Ned Rozell, science writer for the Geophysical Institute, wrote an article with the headline “The most remote spot in Alaska.” In the article he mentioned how Dorte Dissing, a geographer with Alaska Biological Research, Inc., using a mapping system known as Geographical Information Systems was able to determine that the most remote place from any other village in mainland Alaska is a narrow bend on the Etivluk River, about 15 miles from its confluence with the Colville River on Alaska’s North Slope. The closest villages are Ambler (to the southwest) and Atkasuk (to the north), both about 120 miles from that spot. However, the “granddaddy” of Alaska remote spots is the island of St. Matthew which sits in the Bering Sea, without a road, airstrip or village. The closest village is Mekoryuk on Nunivak Island, 209 miles away. Can you imagine what it would be like to be so far away from contact with another human being? The isolation, loneliness, and feeling of being cut off from civilization? It could be frightening, unnerving, depressing and, as portrayed in the movie “Castaway” starring Tom Hanks, could make you a bit insane from lack of human contact.

Now imagine being even further away from God. The Bible tells us our sins have separated us from God and have created a barrier to our coming to God. However, while we were walking in our proverbial wilderness of lostness and isolation, Jesus Christ came to earth at just the right time to “...seek and to save those which are lost” and to bring us into a relationship with the Father and into fellowship with Himself and other believers. In bringing us into a relationship with the Father, He reminds us that “...as far as the east is from the west, so far have I removed your sins...” This is part of the Christmas message -- Jesus came to earth to deliver us from a place of isolation and remoteness from God, bringing us to a place where we can “dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

While we may think we are out of God’s sight, we aren’t. He sees us, knows where we are at all times and desires to have a relationship with us. This is why David wrote, “...Where can I go from Your presence...? If I go to the deepest part of the sea, You are there. If I go to the highest mountain top, you are there. If I go into the deepest cave, you are there...” Anywhere you go, God has His eyes on you. The problem occurs when we take our eyes off Him and do not seek Him. As difficult as it is to understand, we often prefer to walk separated from God, turning our backs on Him and going the way that is contrary to His way. Like the Prodigal Son, it is not until we come back to our senses, realize our need and see that God is everywhere do we move from isolation and separation back into relationship and fellowship. This could be one reason we are exhorted to “keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...”

As we celebrate Christmas, it is my hope you do not find yourself isolated from God but that you are “walking in the Light, as He is in the Light...” because that is why Jesus Christ came so many years ago -- the day we call “Christmas.”

If you are separated from God, do not know what it means to be in relationship with Him nor have the assurance you are a part of His family, please contact us at the Alaska Baptist Convention because we would like to be able to tell you how you can have the merriest Christmas ever. Blessings!



Jimmy Stewart
*Director of Evangelism, Prayer
and Collegiate Ministries*

The last two months have been a tremendous time of ministry and fellowship with the churches statewide. I am truly blessed and thankful to work for and with so many great people. I appreciate the staff of the Alaska Baptist Convention (ABC) and Executive Director, Mike Procter. Butch Strickland and Alan Dial are great co-workers and have a heart for our state. Our ministry assistants, Debra Long and Sylvia Rylander, are the best -- they are always cheerful and full of their joy for Christ. I can’t say enough about my ministry assistant and co-laborer for the work I do in this state. After conducting meetings and planning for future events, I can tell you how easy my life is working for you because I have Betsy Shilling handling details and logistics for me. If people knew all the work she does, they might ask “why do we need Jimmy?” Seriously, it is a blessing to come to the ABC office and work with such great people.

Christmas will be here before we know it and is a natural time to talk about Jesus as we celebrate the Christmas holidays. I believe we have the best opportunity to share Christ with others at this time of year. My heart is burdened for our country and the direction we are headed. We have some major issues that can only be solved by our Lord. Sharing Christ with others is the best gift we can give anyone. As you are shopping for that special gift, as you are selecting the best turkey or ham for Christmas dinner, or as you are getting decorations for your home, share your appreciation for the workers you encounter. Tell them Jesus is the reason for Christmas -- let them know the reason for this season is a celebration of the life of Christ.

I hope you are making plans to attend the State Evangelism Conference. This year we are going to be blessed with some wonderful folks; president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Fred Luter, will be with us and you won’t want to miss the encouragement and excitement he will bring; Mark Foley, president of University of Mobile, will be our guest. He is a tremendous communicator and has made U. of M. one of the most Christ-centered places I have ever seen; Dennis and Vicki Watson, pastor of Celebration Church in New Orleans will challenge us as they share the story of how the church was affected by Hurricane Katrina; Aaron Coe, vice president for Church Planting at the North American Mission Board will share some great things that are happening with the church planting movement in America; and Dwight Fitch, worship leader of Celebration Church, will lead us in inspiring worship and song. Make plans to attend, check out our website for details and register online for meals, hotel and childcare. Blessings to you and yours during this holiday time of year.



Butch Strickland
*Director of Church Planting
 and Missions*

“Remember when you see a missionary coming home broken in body and weary in soul, it isn’t the privations or dangers or things he’s done that leave a deep hurt; it’s the things he couldn’t do that break his heart.”

anonymous missionary

I would never want to compare the missionary experience Pam and I had to those whose lives were given during the beginnings of the modern missionary movement. The hardships they endured were much more intense than anything we might have had to put up with. Their hardships were more like what Paul mentions in 2 Corinthians 11:23-28. I do understand the sentiment expressed by the anonymous missionary. We were starting three churches and I was interim pastor of the church where we were members. We were teaching in the Bible Institute in our city and working with volunteers in medical, evangelistic, and construction projects. Additionally, Pam was ministering to her group of expatriate women. We were so busy that to make an appointment to have a cup of coffee with a friend meant looking forward a couple of weeks on our calendar. During that time and in the space of one month, I received six phone calls, all basically communicated the same thing, “We understand you are a Baptist missionary. We think we are Baptists too. We meet together every week around the radio and listen to a preacher who says he is Baptist and we believe like he does. But we have no training or materials and none of us know anything about starting a church. What can you do to help us?” My heart broke each time I had to tell them that I just didn’t have the time.

I believe every generation of Christians has had the potential to reach every nation, tribe, tongue and people. I believe there are enough people called of God to make that kind of impact. I also believe while God is calling, we are not listening. Please pray every day at 9:38 a.m. and 9:38 p.m. what Jesus instructed us to pray in Matthew 9:38, “Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest.”



**Please check
 your list!**
John 18:10-14

by Alan Dial, Alaska Native Church Planter Catalyst

Everyone who has an active Facebook (FB) account raise their hand...that would be about 52% of you. How many of you only use FB to see pictures of your grandchildren? That would include me and probably everyone else over the age of 55. Now, excluding me and that cranky old guy sitting on the back row by the door, how many of you are startled by the junk on FB? Even if you fall into the “cultural Christian” or “only-go-on-Easter-and-Christmas Christian” or the “sit, soak and sour Christian”, by declaring you are a Christian, you should be uncomfortable with the junk on FB. I’m talking about the junk rock-solid, Word-believing, Psalm-singing, right wing Christian men and women put on the World Wide Web without thinking through its message to the lost world and those who read FB for something other than pictures of grandbabies! Recently, I was perusing the mindless prattle that fills the space between pictures of my precious little ones, when what to my beady little eyes appeared? A prayer! It went something like this, “Dear Lord, please keep me from people that don’t like you, would have me to be like them and would conspire to keep me from doing your will... Amen.” And I thought we were supposed to ask for Divine Appointments, interaction with non-believers and opportunities to share our faith with the lost. Now we can pray a prayer, retreat completely from the world and marvel at how blessed we are not to be like “them.” In Luke 18:10-14 is an interesting story of spiritual elitism and the trap we fall into when we look down on “those filthy sinners.” Two men in church praying...one an esteemed member of the body and the other a disgusting sinner (you may pick any two from the following list...tax collector, socialist, communist, homosexual, liberal, foreigner, lawyer, politician, used car salesman, etc.). You may add to the list anyone you feel superior to or anyone whom you “know” to be more distant from God than yourself (do not add in-laws no matter how much sense it makes). Once we define the sinner, half our work is done! We have identified someone less “godly” than ourselves establishing that we are better than they. Hint... labeling someone makes them appear inferior. Then, we thank God that He saw fit to keep (see your list) away from us so we will not fall under the influence of their evil ways. I don’t know what’s going on in the disgusting mind of the sinner since I’m way too busy recognizing how much holier I am, but the scriptures say (please see your list) “walked away justified” while I just walked away! This does not appear fair...I mean considering I’m so much more holy and all. This entire process of supervising the Holy Spirit and labeling sinners for an omniscient God is so tiring, but will, no doubt, reap a well-deserved reward come that last day. We must tell people about Jesus! To do that, we have to vacate the building and share with **everyone** (please see your list) who does not yet know of the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We need to show them it is our job to love them, not to judge them. May God have mercy on me, a sinner, if I fail to carry out the one task Jesus left for me to do.



Foundation Builder

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Stewards as Friends

During a lifetime, each of us have a lot of acquaintances but only a handful of friends. Friends are those special few that:

- Understand us when we are silent,
- Walk with us through both sorrows and joys,
- Come along side of us when others are nowhere to be found.

One of the greatest biblical examples of a friendship involved the relationship between David and Jonathan. The story is found in the book of First Samuel.

- I Samuel 18:1-4: David and Jonathan were in a covenant relationship as friends and loved each other as brothers.
- I Samuel 20:4: Jonathan was willing to do anything necessary for David. It appears in their story that such behavior was reciprocal. Their friendship grew because of their investment in each other.

Someone recently suggested a book titled, *African Friends and Money Matters* by David Maranz. The book assists persons serving in Africa to understand a basic mindset of Africans regarding friends and stewardship (money). Most of Africa is comprised of collective societies wherein people rely on each other for security rather than on themselves or their governments.

Obviously, most of us do not live in the same type of a society but could we possibly

learn a more effective way of life through a healthier practice of friendship and stewardship? Here are some challenges we might learn from:

1. Be more concerned with putting your resources into circulation and less concerned with hoarding them,
2. Be very sensitive and alert to the needs of others and ready to share your resources,
3. Be less concerned about budgeting for special events and more concerned about helping others who have needs,
4. Be aware, a network of friends is a network of resources.

We each need to work at developing friendship. Christ called His disciples friends as men who lived according to the Commandments. It is as we love each other that we can best be viewed as friends!

David A. Waganer, SDA Resource Coordinator, July 9, 2012.



I want to thank the Alaska Baptist Foundation for the Fuhr Memorial Scholarship. It is helping me be able to finish my last year of college without going into debt as far as I had feared I would have to, and have fewer financial worries as I attend college. It truly will be a blessing and I thank you and I thank God for it. Thank you. 🙏

Joshua Sharrow, Fuhr scholarship recipient

Don't put off until tomorrow...

Do you remember the words to the song from "Annie"? "Tomorrow, tomorrow, I love you tomorrow, you're only a day away." While little orphan Annie sang these words as a testament of her attitude that tomorrow might be a better day, for many, these words reflect an outlook or philosophy of life...don't do today what you can put off until tomorrow. In other words, procrastinate.

I believe most of us do not intend to procrastinate but with the many demands placed on us, it just happens. After all, who starts a diet on a weekend? That is a Monday commitment, right? Better yet, why not wait until January 1 to start the diet because we want to eat all the Thanksgiving and Christmas goodies. But wait a minute. Don't start the diet on January 1 because that is New Year's Day and there will be snacks to eat during the football games on television. Wait until January 2 to start the diet.

Unfortunately, this is the same line of thinking many people have when it comes to estate planning. You know you should have a plan in place for the well-being of your family, but there is no time today. You will wait until (insert your excuse here) and, in reality it seldom gets done.

Are you aware if you do not have a Last Will and Testament or Trust in place when you die, the State of Alaska will determine what happens to your assets, who will be the guardian of your minor children, how much probate and inheritance taxes your heirs will have to pay and other issues important to you? All of this can be avoided if you plan ahead and prepare your estate, but many people will put it off until tomorrow.

Procrastination is nothing new. Edward Young, an English poet (1683-1765) wrote "procrastination is the thief of time. Year after year it steals, 'til all are fled..."

If you are interested in learning more about estate planning, please contact Adam Long, adam@alaskabaptistfoundation.com or mike@alaskabaptistconvention.com, 907-344-9627, 800-883-9627.

Remember the words of an unknown person, "yesterday is a canceled check, tomorrow is a payment on a loan. Today is the only cash you have, so use it wisely." Blessings!



Stewardship of Gratitude

Face the challenge to practice the art of Christian Gratitude in your daily life and you will be more positive about the future. In Ezekiel 36:26a, the scriptures declare – "I will give you a new heart, and put a new spirit in you..." Here are a few brush strokes to sharpen your skills as a steward of gratitude.

Brush Stroke One

Develop a prayerful heart so you can become a stronger steward of gratitude.

"They honored us in many ways, and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed."

Acts 28:10

Brush Stroke Two

Look for opportunities to express joy by serving the Lord with your gifts and abilities through the ministries of the church.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10

Brush Stroke Three

Share cheerfully from your financial resources to make a difference both in your life, your church and in the life of others.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21

What brush stroke do you need to work on to become a stronger steward of Christian gratitude? What other brush strokes would you add to these three as an encouragement to others? What do you need to do to implement personal strength in the future as a steward for the Lord?

by David Waganer, Resource Coordinator for the Stewardship Dev. Assn.

Alaska

Baptist Messenger



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The Messenger is provided through gifts to the Cooperative Program, Annie Armstrong Mission Offerings and individual subscriptions.

PERIODICAL POSTAGE
PAID AT
ANCHORAGE, AK

December 2012

2-9 Week of Prayer and Mission Study
for International Missions and the
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
24-Jan. 1 ABC and ABF offices closed

January 2013

2-6 January Bible Study
20 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
27 Day of Prayer for the SBC
28-29 State Evangelism Conference

February 2013

1-28 "True Love Waits" Emphasis
3 Souper Bowl Sunday for Hunger Relief
10 Racial Reconciliation Sunday
11-17 Focus on WMU
16 Children's Ministry Day



Training youth to be evangelists, disciplers and leaders with youth workers in the local churches. Individual tracks include Worship, Missions, Bible Study, Ministry, Discipleship, Tech, Video and Recreation.

Friday - Friday, June 14-21, 2013

Application package (www.alaskabaptistconvention.com) must be completed and into the ABC office by April 1, 2013. A full payment of \$200 is also due at that time.

T3 Students must be recommended by their pastor or youth leader and must have completed 8th grade.

Training Teens Today