



## CHOSEN

### Standing in the Gap for Alaska's Youth

CHOSEN is a faith-based, non-profit program in Anchorage that pairs at-risk youth with mentor teams of two.

For more information about their mission, ways to get involved, or how to refer a child or youth, please visit

[ChosenAlaska](http://ChosenAlaska)

## ENGAGE

*equipped to serve* 

Are you interested in developing practical skills to lead, love and serve marginalized people in a broken world? ENGAGE is a faith-based discipleship training that focuses on equipping people to engage in areas of injustice.

August 24-26 at ChangePoint in Anchorage  
visit [ENGAGE](#) for additional information

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July 4

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To receive an electronic version of  
the Alaska Baptist *Milepost*  
please email

[betsy@alaskabaptistconvention.com](mailto:betsy@alaskabaptistconvention.com)

## January- May 2018 Gifts from ABC Churches

Organization	CP	SMO	AA	LM	WH	Total
Adelphoi (formerly The Way)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Agape Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Alaska Iu-Mienh First Baptist Church	\$92.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$92.00
Anchor Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Anderson Community 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
Big Lake Baptist Church	\$4,220.53	\$0.00	\$680.00	\$1,078.70	\$0.00	\$5,979.23
Bodenburg Butte Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Calvary Baptist Church	\$2,756.70	\$0.00	\$1,023.61	\$1,023.26	\$0.00	\$4,803.57
Catalyst Church	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$900.00
Christ Community Church	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$170.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$370.00
Clearwater Baptist Church	\$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
Coffman Cove Comm Baptist Church	\$697.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$697.50
Cold Bay Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
College Heights Baptist Church	\$16,579.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,814.00	\$0.00	\$22,393.95
Cottonwood Creek Cowboy Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cross Roads Baptist Church	\$4,759.00	\$0.00	\$2,744.50	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$9,003.50
CrossCountry Church	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Dillingham Bible Fellowship	\$4,058.15	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,300.00	\$0.00	\$5,358.15
Eagle River Korean Baptist Church	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
Emmanuel Baptist Church	\$901.85	\$0.00	\$210.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,111.85
Fairbanks Korean Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fairview Loop Baptist Church	\$10,548.26	\$2,118.31	\$34.82	\$4,422.44	\$0.00	\$17,123.83
Faith Baptist Church	\$3,374.98	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,374.98
Faith Recovery Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Filipino Bible Church	\$875.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$875.00
First Baptist Church, Anchorage	\$4,226.00	\$0.00	\$1,447.01	\$231.31	\$0.00	\$5,904.32
First Baptist Church, Eagle River	\$19,330.85	\$100.00	\$2,862.34	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$22,393.19
First Baptist Church, Fairbanks	\$2,523.91	\$0.00	\$985.00	\$1,180.00	\$0.00	\$4,688.91
First Baptist Church, North Pole	\$23,895.00	\$0.00	\$3,413.00	\$3,017.83	\$0.00	\$30,325.83
First Baptist Church, Delta Junction	\$24,480.19	\$100.00	\$4,155.00	\$10,909.84	\$0.00	\$39,645.03
First Baptist Church, Juneau	\$5,809.88	\$795.00	\$1,520.00	\$1,371.00	\$0.00	\$9,495.88
First Baptist Church, Kenai	\$4,173.17	\$0.00	\$895.53	\$1,320.53	\$0.00	\$6,389.23
First Baptist Church, Ketchikan	\$4,738.14	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,695.00	\$0.00	\$6,433.14
First Baptist Church, Kotzebue	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church, Palmer	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,525.00	\$1,728.00	\$0.00	\$6,253.00
First Baptist Church, Petersburg	\$3,643.56	\$1,100.00	\$0.00	\$1,960.00	\$0.00	\$6,703.56
First Baptist Church, Sitka	\$2,726.49	\$0.00	\$876.00	\$988.00	\$0.00	\$4,590.49
First Baptist Church, Soldotna	\$3,993.00	\$518.00	\$0.00	\$660.00	\$0.00	\$5,171.00
First Baptist Church, Valdez	\$8,721.57	\$0.00	\$2,327.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,048.57
First Baptist Church, Wasilla	\$5,403.52	\$0.00	\$2,658.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,061.52
First Baptist Church, Willow	\$1,919.69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,814.00	\$0.00	\$8,733.69
First Hmong Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Korean Baptist Church	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$397.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$1,547.00
First Native Baptist Church	\$757.00	\$1,004.21	\$0.00	\$729.47	\$0.00	\$2,490.68
Friendship Baptist Mission	\$1,515.45	\$0.00	\$1,525.00	\$2,080.00	\$0.00	\$5,120.45
Frontier Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Frontier Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Frontier Native Church	\$228.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$228.52
Frontier Southern Baptist Church	\$1,076.58	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,076.58
Gilead Ministries	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Glacier Valley Baptist Church	\$8,170.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,501.00	\$0.00	\$12,671.12
Grandview Baptist Church	\$14,277.91	\$0.00	\$2,466.23	\$2,856.00	\$0.00	\$19,600.14
Greater Friendship Baptist Church	\$5,969.98	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,969.98
Hillside Baptist Church	\$4,982.23	\$0.00	\$550.00	\$625.00	\$0.00	\$6,157.23
Hoonah Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Iglesia Bautista Hispana Sunset Hills	\$368.90	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$418.90
Immanuel Baptist Church	\$383.43	\$0.00	\$986.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,369.44
Journey Church	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$270.00
Juneau Korean Church	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$210.00	\$0.00	\$610.00
Kasaan Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ketchikan Filipino Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
Kiana Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kobuk Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Korean New Central Baptist Church	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Lighthouse Community Church	\$4,480.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,480.00
Living Water Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Malamalama Fou Church	\$240.00	\$60.00	\$120.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$570.00
Misc. Contributors-Cash	\$0.00	\$8,864.64	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,014.64
Montana Creek Baptist Church	\$3,191.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,191.57
Moose Creek Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Moose Pass Community Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Morning Star Baptist Church	\$1,946.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$2,196.43
Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mount Redoubt Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mountain View Community Church	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Muldoon Road Baptist Church	\$2,864.22	\$0.00	\$788.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,652.28
New Birth Christian Church	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00

## January-May 2018 Gifts from ABC Churches

Organization	CP	SMO	AA	LM	WH	Total
New Grace Christian Church	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
New Hope Baptist Church	\$6,307.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$6,807.00
New Hope Fellowship	\$175.00	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$335.00	\$0.00	\$570.00
North Bear Street Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
North Tongass Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Northern Lights Missions	\$375.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$475.00
Pathway Discipleship Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pioneer Baptist Church	\$1,213.26	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,313.26
Rabbit Creek Church	\$1,608.91	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,608.91
River In The Desert Comm Church	\$1,020.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,020.00
Riverside Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Roots @ Night	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Roots Family Church, Kasilof	\$475.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$475.00
Roots Family Church, Soldotna	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00
Sabbath Peace Fellowship	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
Salcha Baptist Church	\$1,179.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,179.96
Sand Lake Fellowship	\$821.30	\$68.44	\$268.44	\$68.44	\$0.00	\$1,226.62
Sand Point Baptist Chapel	\$5,012.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,012.25
Schrock Road Community Church	\$1,354.00	\$483.00	\$322.00	\$422.00	\$0.00	\$2,581.00
Settler's Bay Community Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Seward Bible Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shannon Park Baptist Church	\$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	\$1,400.00	\$700.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,100.00
St. John Baptist Church	\$2,885.11	\$0.00	\$437.50	\$61.50	\$0.00	\$3,384.11
Sunset Hills Baptist Church	\$7,095.67	\$0.00	\$3,714.00	\$520.00	\$0.00	\$11,329.67
Tenakee Springs Community Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Crossing @ Birchwood	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Thorne Bay Baptist Church	\$218.19	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24.00	\$0.00	\$242.19
Togiak Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transitional Ministries	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.00
True North Church	\$8,133.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$13,633.57
True North Church Girdwood	\$1,360.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,650.00	\$0.00	\$3,010.65
UBC-Chinese Fellowship	\$292.50	\$100.00	\$230.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$872.50
Unalaska Reformed Church	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
University Baptist Church, Anchorage	\$2,555.02	\$0.00	\$1,145.00	\$910.00	\$0.00	\$4,610.02
University Baptist Church, Fairbanks	\$2,718.00	\$0.00	\$330.00	\$7,220.86	\$0.00	\$10,268.86
Valley View Baptist Church	\$2,625.00	\$0.00	\$147.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,772.00
Wasilla Korean Baptist Church	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Whittier Christian Community Church	\$589.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$589.78
	<b>\$279,281.40</b>	<b>\$16,011.60</b>	<b>\$43,873.05</b>	<b>\$78,327.18</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$417,493.23</b>
		<b>1Q 2018</b>	<b>2Q 2018</b>	<b>3Q 2018</b>	<b>4Q 2018</b>	
2000 Club Call receipts as of May 31, 2018		\$4,330.00	\$3,470.00	\$205.00	\$205.00	<b>\$8,210.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>						<b>\$425,703.23</b>

### 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

	2018		2017	
<b>May</b>				
Receipts	\$5,572.76		\$58,156.50	
CP Goal	8,232.65		57,628.80	
Variance	7,340.11	12.60%	527.70	0.92%
<b>Year-to-Date</b>				
Receipts	\$279,281.40		\$258,693.21	
CP Goal	291,163.25		288,144.00	
Variance	(11,881.85)	-4.08%	(29,450.79)	-10.22%

## Welcome

Keith (JoAnne) Longo  
First Baptist Church, Soldotna

Please Pray for  
our Pastorless Churches

Aquillaq Baptist Mission, Ambler  
Chinese Fellowship, Fairbanks  
First Baptist Church, Eagle River  
First Baptist Church, Petersburg  
First Baptist Church, Sitka  
North Tongass Baptist Church, Ward Cove  
Riverside Chapel, King Salmon  
Shungnak Baptist Mission  
Solid Rock Baptist Church, Anchorage

### Church office position available in Anchorage

Grandview Baptist Church is seeking a part-time administrative assistant to support the pastoral staff and church office operations. Salary is DOE and includes paid holidays, vacation and personal days. Visit [www.gbcaak.org](http://www.gbcaak.org) for a full description and contact information.

**100%**  
OF YOUR GIFT  
HELPS SOMEONE IN NEED

Years ago, an endowment was established that funds the operating expenses of Mission:Dignity. This covers staff salaries, printing, postage and other expenses.

**EVERY DOLLAR** of current Mission:Dignity annual gifts is used for monthly distributions to retired pastors and widows in need.

  
**Mission:Dignity**  
Assisting Retired Ministers and Spouses





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

## Bold Evangelism

Many of you know Mom passed away recently. Dad is now in an assisted living facility and on a recent visit, my wife, Dad and I were on the front porch visiting when another resident came up and introduced himself to Kathryn. This 97-year-old man began the conversation with a quick hello, and then told us about himself. Without any hesitation, he asked if we knew we were going to heaven; he also asked if we had been saved and if Jesus Christ was our Lord. When we responded with a resounding “yes,” he broke out in song and we all joined him in singing the Doxology. Wow! What a great moment. It was wonderful to have someone ask me about my salvation. Can you remember the last time someone approached you to share the gospel? Another impressive thing was his boldness – he didn’t hesitate, but in a gentle way, shared God’s love. We need to be bold! In Acts 4, we read about Christ’s followers boldly sharing. And what a great model that a 97-year-old man would take time to share Christ with others. I got the impression this man shared with everyone who came into the assisted living facility. He modeled obedience, faithfulness and will- ingness. How many years had this man shared the gospel? I don’t know, but maybe over most of his life. In heaven, I’ll bet there will be a long line of people to thank this man for sharing Jesus. Just because you get older doesn’t mean you should stop sharing. I want to be like this man if I make it to 97 years of age, but I really want to be like him now, sharing with boldness and without hesi- tation. How many people would refuse to talk to an elderly gentle- man? I have an advantage because many people have asked me about my burns. My scars allow me to share the story of His suffering for us. This summer, Scott Bel- more (Mosaic Ministries), Logan Skoog (intern), 13 college stu- dents from six states, and I are be- ing intentional about sharing our

faith, trying to see how many people we can engage with the gospel. We are going to block parties, downtown parks and park trails; assisting with Vacation Bible Schools and conducting Bible studies at coffee houses. We are keeping track of the number of conversations we have about Jesus. Pray for these students because it’s not always comfortable and it requires courage. These students are learning about evangelism and I can’t wait to see how this group grows. I know many of these students have fallen in love with shar- ing and they have fallen in love with Alaska! They may be our future church members and pastors. How are you engaging the younger generation to help them grow in their faith? Watching believers fall in love with evangelism, and discovering it’s even easy, is priceless. Summer is a great time to challenge people to share their faith. We come into contact with so many people in the course of our normal activities. Let’s take advantage of the opportunities. Don’t wait until you are 97-years-old to share Christ. Make it a lifelong endeavor! Have a great summer.



*Brian, Debra, Abigaile, Alyssa, Bear*

## *The Hicks Family*

**serving in Girdwood, Alaska**  
True North Church-Girdwood  
[brian@truenorthalaska.com](mailto:brian@truenorthalaska.com)  
907.382.0131

### *Partner with the Hicks family:*

- *pray for chances to have gospel conversations with tourists in Girdwood and Whittier.*
- *pray for new partnerships to develop with churches in the Lower 48.*

**sponsored by the Alaska Baptist Convention**



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On June 7, each church received an email stating the number of messengers to which each church is entitled, and the method of registering those messengers. If you have questions, please contact [Sylvia Rylander](#).

# Strengthen my hands

Nehemiah 6:9

**annual meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention**  
**Monday-Wednesday, September 24-26, 2018**  
**host church: First Baptist Church, Wasilla**

## Impact Alaska Conference

Monday, September 24  
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

### Annual Meeting

Tuesday, September 25  
1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

(supper on your own)

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 26  
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

## Alaska WMU annual meeting

Tuesday, September 25

First Baptist Church, Wasilla  
9:00 - 11:45 a.m.

### Pastors Conference

Tuesday, September 25

Mat-Su Resort (Cork Room)  
(1850 E. Bogard Road)  
9:00 - 11:45 a.m.

lunch for both groups at noon  
fellowship hall, First Baptist Church  
reservations requested

[click here to register for pastor/WMU lunch](#)

## Conference hotel

Best Western Lake Lucille Inn  
1300 W. Lake Lucille Drive, Wasilla  
Call hotel directly, 907.373.1776  
Room block:

Alaska Baptist Convention  
\$116.99 + tax (room with two beds)  
\$98.99 + tax (room with one bed)  
full, hot breakfast is included  
for hotel guests.



# MILEPOST MOMENTS

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



*submitted photo and logo*

## **First Baptist Church Valdez**

invites you to worship aboard the M/V Lu-Lu Belle

**Sundays, June - August, 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.**

Board at 7:45 a.m. at the tour dock near the hotel

***No reservations needed!***

***All are welcome!***

[Like us on Facebook](#)

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## **University Baptist Church, Fairbanks**

UBC said farewell to long-time members Wally and Jeanine Smith by having a church-wide cookout. This month, church children will attend Camp Baldwin and JAM Camp.

## **First Baptist Church, Soldotna**

FBC has called Keith (JoAnne) Longo as pastor. Longo's are relocating from Kansas and should be on the field by mid-July. The church wishes to thank those who filled the pulpit, as well as those who prayed for the church, during their time without a pastor.

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## **WMU and Pastors Lunch during the annual meeting**



**Tuesday, September 25, Noon  
lunch is provided for  
pastors and WMU attendees**

[Registration required](#)

**July 15 - 19, 2018**



**Camp  
2018**

***Put on the full armor of God. Eph 6:11a***

**Jesus, Arts, Music Camp (completed 3rd-10th grades)**

**hosted by Hatcher Pass Baptist Association**

**located at Laverne Griffin Youth Recreation Camp**

**information: [www.hpbaak.org](http://www.hpbaak.org)**

# Why the Rural Church Matters

By Glenn C. Daman

The farm that I was raised on was five miles from the nearest small village. The town itself had a population of ninety people, with two gas stations, two bars, two sawmills, a small mom-and-pop grocery store, and one church.

The bars and gas stations have since closed, the sawmills have been swallowed up by large mills, and the grocery store struggles to exist as a small mini-mart. But the church remains.

Within the surrounding community and farmland, there were two other churches, a Free Methodist church connected to a local church camp and the Catholic Church started by Father Pierce-Jean De Smet. The next closest church was twenty miles away in another valley.

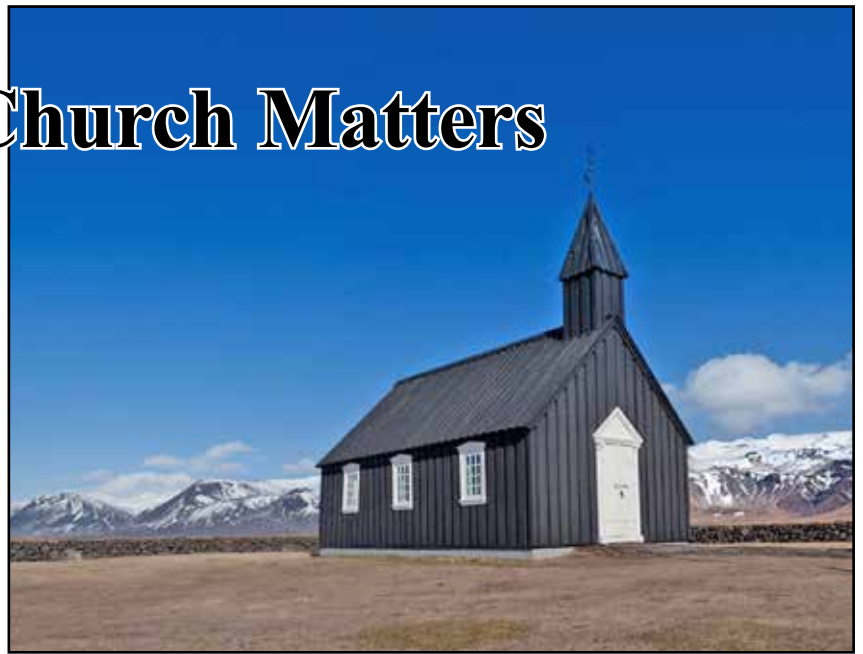
The church was more than a church for the forty to sixty people who met each week. It was regarded by many to be “their church” even though they never attended. As is often the case in rural communities, people are religious and will identify with a church in the community even though they may never attend. For them, the presence of the church is a part of the community identity.

As Aaron Morrow writes, “Small towns tend to be loaded with religious non-Christians. They may not go to church very often, but they generally believe that God exists and the Bible probably has something to say about him.” In many rural communities, there will be a specific denomination or “faith family” that dominates the area.

Within the rural church on any given Sunday, there may be two or three different generations present. Those who do not have grandparents near may often be “adopted” by older couples whose children have moved away.

It is through this intergenerational worship that values and faith are passed down from one generation to another. As a result, rural parents are involved in the church community, and that involvement is matched by their children. There is a natural progression from generation to generation.

Every Sunday morning and evening, my parents would pack all four of us children into the car and



head to church. The only time we did not attend was when we were ill—and you better have a doctor’s note confirming it!

It was so ingrained within us that even when we were teenagers and our parents were away on a trip, we still went, never even thinking that attendance was optional. Our parents never forced us to go to church. We just never realized it was an option.

But it was there that we learned about the Bible and saw it lived out in the lives of the people who attended, people who cared about us and were as much a part of my life as any blood relative.

When I go back, I do not see a white building located between a small town and a wheat field. I see people, each of whom left their imprint on my life. Understanding the rural church requires us to look beyond the building and see the people.

In rural communities, the church plays a more important role than just offering a meeting place for the local congregation. It brings stability and supports the whole community.

In many small communities, especially those isolated from large urban areas, the church plays an important role in providing help and assistance for people.

In rural communities, the church functions not only as a religious center, but also as a social center. In times when a tragedy strikes the community, people will look to the church and the local pastor to provide support and a sense of community, even though they may never attend the church.

Because of the lack of social services, many times people will look to the church to fill the gap in food and clothing. Thus, in rural communities, the civil and social well-being of the community is interwoven with the vitality of the local church.

GLENN C. DAMAN is the author of *Leading the Small Church*, *Shepherding the Small Church*, *Developing Leaders for the Small Church*, and *When Shepherds Weep*. Since 1991, Daman has served as the pastor of River Christian Church in Stevenson, Washington. Taken from *The Forgotten Church: Why Rural Ministry Matters for Every Church in America* by Glenn Daman (©2018). Published by [Moody Publishers](#). Used by permission. Reprinted from Spring 2018 issue of *Facts Trends* magazine. Reprinted with permission.





# Foundation Builder

*Published for Friends of the Alaska Baptist Foundation • Summer 2018*

In January, we addressed the first “R” of Christian estate planning – to “Recognize” God is owner of all. In April, the focus was to “Respond” to the needs of the family. This month, we will “Remember” to advance the kingdom. This involves using our time, talent and treasure. Scripture reminds us we are bought with a price – the precious blood of Jesus Christ. The beautiful thing about God is that He extends mercy and pardons our sin through Jesus Christ. However, God doesn’t stop there! Through grace, He imputes righteousness and gives spiritual and physical gifts to us. All who are in Christ have a spiritual gift and enjoy the fruit of the Spirit. God provides physical gifts in the form of

time, talents and treasures. We advance the kingdom when we use our gifts to glorify God through the practice of worship, scripture study, and obedience. We can share the gospel message verbally and in writing, and by engaging in ministry through teaching, building, and supplying the needs of others. Finally, we advance the kingdom through tithes and generous offerings, and by remembering the Lord’s work in final estate planning. From the Christian perspective, the essence of advancing the kingdom is a lifelong process which starts with justification by Christ, sanctification through the spirit of Christ and glorification found in Christ.

## The Four “Rs” to Christian Estate Planning

### **Recognize** God is owner of all.

God’s word directs that earthly wealth should never define an estate plan. Everything in our possession is God’s estate. Wealth is not defined by money, but by the Messiah.

### **Respond** to the needs of family.

God reminds us if we do not care and provide for our family, we are worse than a non-believer.

### **Remember** to advance the kingdom.

God instructs his followers to be steadfast, determined and persevere in the Lord’s work.

### **Reflect** on the value of the Lord to others.

God expects us to represent Christ, and through our testimony, demonstrate how we live and transition through life.

## Is God’s Will in your Will?

(Last Will and Testament)

The Alaska Baptist Foundation offers complementary estate planning services and materials through a variety of partnerships.

[www.alaskabaptistfoundation.com](http://www.alaskabaptistfoundation.com); 907.770.0581; 800.883.9627



## Focus on the Future

### tips for your journey toward retirement

**S**easons of life come and go. Starting your first job, getting married, buying a house, having kids and entering retirement are all common milestones that we celebrate – not only because they mark the end of a season but also because they promise a new beginning.

In fact, this call to recognize and honor various seasons of life is a biblical principle found in the Old Testament, **“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.”** (Ecclesiastes 3:1, NKJV)

#### Start Strong

In the first few years of your career or ministry, money can feel particularly tight. Between student loans, mounting financial responsibilities and the feeling that retirement is far away, investing for the future may be your last priority.

But the earlier you start investing, the more time your money can work for you and the more likely you are to be financially ready for retirement.

Mapping out a budget that allocates a steady amount to retirement savings is key to building a strong foundation as you work toward your goals. Consider using the 50/20/30 rule:



**50/20/30  
RULE**

**50% ESSENTIAL EXPENSES**

Tithe, housing, car payment, groceries, transportation

**20% FINANCIAL SAVINGS**

Retirement, emergency fund, paying off debt

**30% NON-ESSENTIAL SPENDING**

Entertainment, dining out, travel

#### Build Your Savings

After you've worked for a while and steadily contributed toward retirement, you may be tempted to slip into a complacent savings strategy.

#### But don't!

You are now in your prime retirement saving years, so regular assessments of your contribution amount and overall saving strategy are vital.

While it was important to start where you could, continually increasing your contributions over time is critical to achieving your long-term goals. Guidestone advisors suggest starting at 10 percent of your salary, then making percentage increases annually toward the recommended retirement savings goal of 15 percent. But if you got a late start saving for retirement, you may need to contribute more.

Additionally, make sure you're taking advantage of employer contributions if your plan provides them.

#### Get Ready to Retire

As retirement gets closer, it's common to feel like there are more questions than answers.

Will you be able to spend more time with family? Will you find a new hobby? Will you find an exciting new way to shine a light for the kingdom?

But in addition to contemplating the changes in your personal life, it's also important to think about how your financial situation will change, too.

Many financial planners suggest replacing 70-90 percent of your final working year's income with systematic withdrawals from retirement accounts, Social Security and any other potential sources of income. Use this suggested figure as a starting point to determine if you are headed toward a surplus or a shortfall, and make necessary adjustments.

#### Live in Retirement

You worked hard and prepared well, so now it is time for you to enjoy this new season of life – retirement.

While it's normal to experience some emotions during a major life change, be encouraged that retirement is not a destination, but a new beginning!

You have a great deal to offer to others, so take this opportunity to simply retool for the next phase of your ministry.

In addition to finding new ways to serve, it's also important for you to perform periodic checkups on your budget and income, which will help you stay on track.

#### Walk with Guidestone

Your financial future always has been and always will be our focus. It is our privilege to walk alongside you on your journey to and through retirement.

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# LABOR of Love



*New Birth Christian Church in Fairbanks needs assistance with extensive church renovations including building walls; purchasing and laying carpet; removing old lighting and purchasing and installing new lighting; renovating fellowship hall and kitchen; replacing oil furnace; installing sound board; and removing all construction debris.*

## 2000 Club • Third Quarter 2018

**\$3470**  
has been  
received for  
2Q 2018\*  
\*as of 5/31/18

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

#### July

2-6	Grades 5-6 camp, Camp Baldwin
4	ABC and ABF office closed for Independence Day
9-13	Grades 7-8 camp, Camp Baldwin
15-19	JAM Camp
16-20	Grades 9-12 camp, Camp Baldwin

#### August

1-3	Youth FUSION
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#### September

3	ABC and ABF office closed for Labor Day
2-9	Valeria Sherard State Mission Offering emphasis
24	Impact Alaska!
25	WMU annual meeting Pastor's conference
25-26	annual meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention

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Alaska Baptist Convention