



75th Anniversary

History of the
Alaska Baptist Resource Network

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75th Anniversary

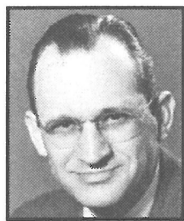
History of the Alaska Baptist Resource Network

Organizational Meeting March 27-28, 1946
First Baptist Church, Anchorage

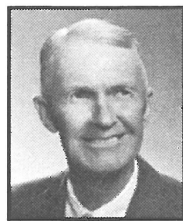
75th Anniversary Celebration March 26-27, 2021
First Baptist Church, Anchorage

Alaska Baptist Executive Directors

Volunteers



Felton H. Griffin
1946-47



B. Clarence Evans
1948-49

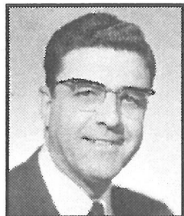


William (Bill) Lewis
1950



Russell Simmons
1951-55

Alaska Baptist Convention Executive Directors Employees



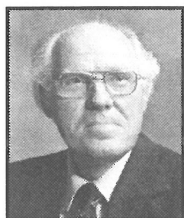
L.A. Watson
1956-63



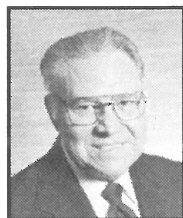
William Hansen
1963-66



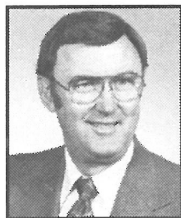
E.W. Hunke
1966-71



J. Troy Prince
1971-79



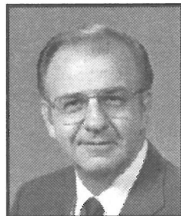
Allen H. Meeks
1979-82



John H. Allen
1982-87



Bill G. Duncan
1988-95



Cloyd R. Sullins
1996-2001



David Baldwin
2001-2010



Michael Procter
2011-2016



Randy Covington
2016-Present

Other Alaska Baptist Convention Staff

Woman's Missionary Union

E. Louise Yarbrough, Secretary, 1957-68

Judy Rice, Director WMU/Mission Ministries, 1968-2008

Religious Education

Roy L. Moore, Secretary, 1958-64

Allen Meeks, Secretary, 1964-80

W.R. Canary, Associate, 1975-79

Shirley Miebs, Director, 1983-90

Mission/Church Extension/Brotherhood

Ben Hill, General Missionary, 1959-61

E.C. Chron, State Missions Dir./Chugach Association, 1968-72

Hollis Bryand, Church Extension Dir./Chugach Assn., 1973-76

John H. Allen, Director of State Missions, 1976-82

Cameron Byler, Dir of Church Ext./Brotherhood, 1981-85

J.D. Back, Director Evangelism/Language Mission; Director of Missions/Church Extension; Assistant Executive Director, 1983-1994

Kenneth Chadwick, Director State Missions, Brotherhood,

Michael Procter, Director of State Missions

Butch Strickland, Director of State Missions

Don Shannon,

Evangelism/Brotherhood/Stewardship/Church Growth

Bill Duncan, Dir Evangelism/Brthrhd/Stewardship, 1985-87

Cloyd Sullins, Director Evangelism/Church Growth, 1991-94

Roy Spannagel, Director Church Growth

Jimmy Stewart, Director Evangelism and Church Development,

Current Alaska Baptist Convention/Alaska Baptist Resource Network Staff: 2021

Randy W. Covington, Executive Director-Treasurer,
Executive Director of the Alaska Baptist Foundation

Editor Alaska Baptist Milepost
2016-Present

Jae McKee, Director Church Planting and Missions,
Jimmy Stewart, Director Evangelism and Church Development,

Debra Long, Operations and Finance Administrator
Heather Mount, Administrative Assistant to the Directors of Evangelism/Church Development and Church Planting/Missions

Sylvia Rylander, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director/Receptionist

Adam Long, Coordination Director, Alaska Baptist Foundation



left to right: Adam Long, Jimmy Stewart, Debra Long,
Jae McKee, Sylvia Rylander, Randy Covington, Heather Mount

2020 The Year of God's Glory

2020 - THE YEAR OF GOD'S GLORY

History books will most likely describe this period in history as the year of COVID-19 or the year of the global pandemic. We have seen a deadly virus inflict sickness, disease and death on every people group and every continent on the face of the earth. There is no doubt it has disrupted the normal flow of our everyday lives. But it has not suppressed the movement of our sovereign God in fulfilling His plan for creation.

When Jesus learned of the death of his friend, Lazarus, he made this response in Matt 11:4, "This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Later in verse 25, he said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live." Can this be seen as anything other than a display of God's glory?

Pandemics, disease and death have been part of life since the dawn of creation. Earlier centuries within Christian expansion recorded much greater opposition to the gospel as well as horrible atrocities through persecution and martyrdom. While many Christ-followers have suffered greatly at the hands of Satan and workers of iniquity, the Church has marched on undaunted in its calling. Many world leaders and countries antagonistic to the faith have attempted to squelch the expansion of the gospel only to unwittingly accelerate its growth and influence.

As believers in Christ, we can trust that nothing will deter God's plan for redeeming His people and fulfilling His divine purpose and plan for His creation. We know that we will overcome by the grace of God our Father in heaven. As Alaska Baptists, we celebrate our 75th Anniversary of the Alaska Baptist Convention/Alaska Baptist Resource Network. And while our celebration is somewhat restricted by the coronavirus, we can know that God is still on His throne. His Kingdom has no limits and no restriction, and His will cannot be thwarted. Therefore, we rejoice in the past and look forward with great anticipation to the future He has in store for us. We will remain faithful until our Lord comes in all His glory to bring about the ultimate fulfillment of everlasting life with Him. To God be the glory!

Alaska Baptist Foundation

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Military Couple First Donors

Messengers to the 1958 Alaska Baptist Convention voted in favor of establishing the Alaska Baptist Foundation. The Foundation was not official until its approval at the next annual meeting. Mr. and Mrs. George Abdouch, military, and members of Fairview Baptist Church, Anchorage, were the first donors to the new Foundation.

In 1960, the Alaska Baptist Convention was named as one of the beneficiaries in the will of the late Mrs. A.L. Aulick of Riverside, California. This gift was administered by the Alaska Baptist Foundation. Roger Laube, Secretary-Treasurer of the Baptist Foundation was also a trust officer for the National Bank of Alaska where the Foundation funds were deposited. The late Dr. A.L. Aulick had been head of the department of Bible at Oklahoma Baptist University and later head of the New Testament at Golden Gate Theological Seminary.

Alaska Baptist Foundation Reactivated

For many years the Foundation was dormant and inactive. At the end of 1988, the Alaska Baptist Foundation assets totaled \$16,517. In August, 1989, Aubrey C. Halsell, retired Southern Baptist Air Force Chaplain, was enlisted as a volunteer consultant and asked to come to Alaska for six weeks (November-December) to reactivate the Alaska Baptist Foundation. His contacts with about 50 families resulted in 17 investing some of their assets into this eternal program. Agreements by these grantors included wills, gift annuities, trusts, stocks and land totaling a little over \$300,000 in gifts to the Alaska Baptist Foundation.

Aubrey Halsell was no stranger to Alaska Baptists. While stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base in 1943 as a Chaplain, he led in organizing First Baptist Church, Anchorage. After retiring from the Air Force he worked as a consultant with other Foundations. On January 1, 1990, Halsell and several Foundation directors made contributions up to \$10,000 each to help reactivate the ABC Foundation.

Alabama Partnership

The Alaska Baptist Foundation approved a partnership with the Alabama Baptist Foundation. On January 1, 1991, Dr. U.A. McManus, retired president of the Alabama Foundation, was enlisted as a paid consultant for one year with the intention of extending this relationship for five years. Dr. McManus traveled the state conducting seminars and consulting with individuals. Due to Dr. McManus' expertise, the Foundation assets grew to approximately \$2 million in 1996.

Georgia Partnership

In 1996, a new partnership was established between the Alaska Baptist Convention and the Georgia Baptist Convention. The Alaska Baptist Foundation Board is seeking a new consultant through the Georgia Baptist Foundation to carry on the good work of Halsell and McManus and to move Alaska Foundation toward their 1990 goal to become self-supporting in operations.

UPDATE OF HISTORY TO 2021

As the 75th anniversary of our parent agency the Alaska Baptist Convention/Resource Network (ABC/ABRN) approaches. We want to take a moment and reflect on the ministry impacts of the Alaska Baptist Foundation (ABF) due, in no small part, to the foresight and generous partnership of the ABC/ABRN.

The ABF began for the purpose of holding and managing financial /property gifts of generous southern Baptist. Donors such as Mr. and Mrs. George Abdouch in 1958 and the countless others to this day. While at first glance our history seemed ineffectual and dormant. God was using this time under the protection and guidance of the (ABC/ABRN) developing a framework for the ABF to flourish.

The first of these frameworks was a direct connection with the (ABC/ABRN) and its partnerships between other state conventions starting in 1989. Through these various partnerships the ABF developed relationships with three Foundations in the South. The largest and most dynamic of these relationships was with The Baptist Foundation of Alabama (TBFA). The TBFA—ABF partnership has lasted nearly 30 years and has been exclusive since 2007.

From a numbers standpoint what appreciable benefit has the ABF generated for ministry?

Simply based on earnings made available for ministry from 2007 to present day. The ABF through the investment partnership of TBFA has produced over \$1 million in distributed earnings. The general breakdown (to the nearest dollar) are as follows:

- Alaska Baptist Mission Work- \$416,265
- Scholarships for Alaska Baptist- \$281,028
- Monies to assist the ABC/ABRN- \$209,274
- Native Youth Camp in Alaska- \$104,902

The above monies reflect ministries apart from the ABF and its operating budget.

When we consider the fact the ABF was initially conceived for a gift of under \$1000. Can anybody truthfully deny the Providence, provision, and purpose of the Lord God. The ABF is a testimony of how by working cooperatively men and women, called of God. Can take under \$1000, generating a few dollars of earnings in 1958 and turn it into over \$8 million in assets, generating over \$1 million in ministry earnings over 14 years.

The ABF would like to express thanks to the ABC/ABRN for its unrelenting support and assistance in helping the ABF establish lasting partnerships.

Through dedication, foresight and most importantly trust in God great Kingdom building was accomplished. Nonetheless, this is not the end of the story but only serves as a "tip of an iceberg" to the grander plans of the future. God is always building and strengthening His Kingdom. Let us continue to partner together in one faith and one purpose which is to the glory of God in Jesus Christ.

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Beginnings

Tumagain Children's Home

In April 1943, when William Petty resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, Anchorage, he began devoting part of his time to establishing an orphanage for needy children. At the first session of the Alaska Baptist Convention in 1946, a committee was appointed to study the possibility of starting an orphans' home. B. Clarence Evans, executive secretary of the convention, took the lead in promoting and supporting a home. When Mr. Evans finished building a basement on his 160-acre homestead, he and his wife took in the first few children in about 1948.

Mildred Thomas (Lene), a member of Government Hill Baptist Church (Calvary) donated 22 city lots in Mountain View to the Alaska Baptist Convention to be sold and the proceeds used for a children's home. This land was sold for \$10,000, and the money was used to start the children's home on B.C. Evans' homestead. Carl Rylander, Anchorage construction contractor, helped build the upper part of the home. At first, a maximum of 14 children was allowed.

When the Convention met in August 1950, the messengers refused to accept the responsibility for an orphanage. For some time, Mr. Evans supported this effort almost alone, but in September 1950, the newly organized Chugach Baptist Association voted to take responsibility for the work. However, in November 1951, First Baptist Church, Anchorage, assumed the home and a \$5,000 farm loan. Later when Mr. Evans decided to sell the remaining 47 acres for \$20,000, First Baptist Church made a down payment of \$3,000 and paid the balance off in 1959 at \$150 per month. In August of 1956, the Alaska Baptist Convention voted unanimously to accept the orphanage. By this time at least 129 children had been registered and had lived in the Turnagain Children's Home.

Other early pioneers in child care at Turnagain Children's Home include: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Purnell, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Jones, Mrs. Felton Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Turnley and Ed and Ruby Knutsen. Ed Knutsen served as Superintendent of the Turnagain Children's Home from 1957-1972. During the 15 years the Knutsens were at the Home, they cared for more than 135 children. Volunteers from Anchorage churches helped with house cleaning, ironing, wood cutting and potato harvesting.

Alaska Baptist Family Services

The requirements of the State of Alaska for new improvements proved too much for the fragile finances of the Turnagain Children's Home, and its doors were closed. The Alaska Baptist Convention set about drawing up plans for a new facility to be called the Alaska Baptist Family Services. All but 20 acres of the original homestead were sold, and the money was used to build a new facility. The remainder of \$900,000 was set aside in a quasiendowment fund to support the new services to be offered. C.J. Lawrence, chaplain at Buckner Baptist Children's Home in Texas, began as director January 1, 1972. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Family Services Center were held May 2, 1974. Frank Stockstill was employed to serve as building superintendent.

Following the sudden death of C.J. Lawrence in September 1975, Harold Hime (Patricia) became director of Family Services on May 1, 1976. Harold also served as Alaska Baptists' first consultant for Christian Social Ministries. The \$500,000 facility opened in January

1976. The new building provided rooms for 12 residential children, family counseling offices, apartments for houseparents, living room, dining area and kitchen.

The 80s proved to be difficult times for Alaska, and the Alaska Baptist Convention suffered financially. The Alaska Baptist Family Services helped the Convention weather the storm, thus greatly reducing its reserve funds.

In 1981, Gordon Lantrip (Shirley) came to Alaska Baptist Family Services as Executive Director. Gordon enlarged the residential child care to include emotionally disturbed and behaviorally disturbed children. During Gordon's tenure, other child care workers in Alaska, as well as fellow Southern Baptist children's home directors, developed a genuine respect for Gordon and the ministry of Alaska Baptist Family Services. Gordon and Shirley served Alaska Baptists for approximately 14 years before retiring in September 1994.

Leonard R. Everman (Marsha) became Executive Director of Alaska Baptist Family Services on September 1, 1994. Leonard came to Alaska in the Air Force; while he was a member at Muldoon Road Baptist Church, he surrendered to the ministry. He pastored First Baptist Church, Valdez, for nine years before going to Golden Gate Seminary. In 1982, Leonard returned to Alaska and started Fairview Loop Baptist Church, Wasilla, where he ministered for 12 years before coming to his present position.

In 1991, Alaska Baptist Family Services developed some long-range goals which included providing a foster home care program. This was realized in February 1996 when the license for foster home studies was received. Leonard developed biblically based seminars for ministry which focus on strengthening marriages, dealing with grief, parenting and facilitating classes for personal growth and emotional development.

Major building upgrading has been accomplished because of increased support by Alaska Baptist churches. After 20 years of heavy use, the children's rooms have been repaired, some roof work has been done and new windows have been installed in one apartment.

UPDATE OF HISTORY TO 2021

Stephanie Frieze was the Executive Director until 2001. Gene Medaris took over in 2002 until 2003 when Lorrie Morris became the Executive Director. In 2011 a new cottage for residential clients was built. This opened more space for clients that were in need of mental health services. Alaska Baptist Family Services became Birchwood Behavioral Health in 2015. The name change took place under the leadership of Executive Director Lorrie Morris.

Clients have included both male and female adolescents in one cottage, to only males in the cottage in 2000. Once the second cottage was built the program allowed for older females to be housed in Aspen cottage and younger males in Hunter cottage. In 2016 Lorrie Morris left Birchwood and Frank Taylor was asked to step in as Interim director. Dr. Kim Jackson was asked to take the Executive Director position in May 2017. In September of 2017 David Banks was asked to become the Interim Director. The Board of Directors asked David Banks to become the Executive Director in January 2018. During the Summer of 2018 Birchwood started providing outpatient mental health services to the Anchorage community. In October of 2019 Sarah Cambridge was asked to become the Interim Director. In April 2019 Sarah Cambridge became the Executive Director.

Wayland Baptist University

Alaska

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK "Ten Years and Going Strong"

Since the 50s, Alaska Baptists had talked of having a Baptist college in Alaska. The Alaska Baptist Convention under the leadership of its Executive Director, Dr. John Allen, made this dream a reality. A Wayland alumnus, Dr. Allen invited Dr. David Jester, President of Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, Texas, to attend and participate in the Alaska Baptist Convention annual meeting in Kenai in August 1984. During the visit, a consensus was reached that Wayland Baptist University should extend its outreach to Alaska.

The trustees of Wayland subsequently approved Dr. Jester's recommendation that an off-campus center be established in Alaska to be operational in the fall of 1985. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Wayland's accrediting agency, granted its approval. Action was taken to ensure all needed support was available. In June 1985 Wayland opened office facilities in Faith Baptist Church, Anchorage. With approval and authorization from Alaska Commission on Post Secondary

Education, student recruiting began and a class schedule was developed.

Dr. Robert Bicknell, Dean of Special Services at the Plainview, Texas, campus arrived in Anchorage in late May 1985 to direct establishment of the Alaska Center. The late Dr. James Finical arrived in July to assist and replace Dr. Bicknell. Classes were sched-

uled to begin in September 1985 at Faith and Calvary Baptist churches in Anchorage, and on Eielson Air Force Base in the Fairbanks area. Harvey Angel, Associate Director of Wayland's Hawaii Center, arrived September 1 to assist Dr. Finical and assume the position of Director of the Alaska Center.

The first classes were held on September 9, 1985, as planned. Anchorage enrolled 13 students; the Fairbanks area had 26 students. Dr. Harold Hime, pastor of First Baptist, Anchorage and Dr. Glen Little, pastor of First Baptist, Palmer, served as adjunct faculty in Anchorage while Gene Medaris, director of the Hospitality House in Fairbanks, and Owen Fansler, a deacon at Crossroads Baptist and businessman, were the first adjunct faculty in Fairbanks.

In less than a year of very intensive work, two students were able to complete their bachelor degree requirements through the Alaska Center. Charles Kevin Mallory and Michael Ingram became the Alaska Center's first two graduates and received their diplomas on August 24, 1986.

Initially, Wayland classes in Anchorage were held at Faith and Calvary Baptist Churches. By the end of the first year, Muldoon Denali Baptist Church also made its facilities available for Wayland classes. Elmendorf AFB and Fort Richardson provided academic counseling space from the Center's inception. Early in 1986 Fort Richardson offered Wayland classroom space on post. In 1987 limited classroom space was made available on Elmendorf AFB as well.

Office and classroom space in the Fairbanks area has been provided by Eielson AFB since the Center began. After one term, the US Army at Fort Wainwright also provided similar space there. At the request of

the Army's Education Officer for Alaska, counseling and classes were added at Fort Greely in Delta Junction in 1989.

In 1990 the Alaska Center moved its office from Faith Baptist Church to the Boniface Plaza Mall. In 1992, Harvey Angel retired, and was replaced by Wayland Alumnus, Dr. Jeff Anderson. Space was modified to provide classroom facilities to accommodate growth. In 1991, facilities were expanded to meet rising enrollments, and in April 1994, the Wayland Alaska Center moved to its present location at the Boniface Plaza Mall, Anchorage. Fall 1994 enrollments topped 600 students and growth continues. In April 1995, Wayland's Alaska Center graduated its 1,000th student. During the years many special people have received their degrees through the Alaska Center, including several pastors, church staff and members. Two Native Alaskans, Charlie Nelson and Ted Sutton, completed their degrees at the Alaska Center after study at the Alaska Native School of Theology.

In operation for over 10 years, the spirit of the Alaska Center is highly optimistic and filled with anticipation of what the Lord will do through this Christian outreach in the years ahead. In 1996, two Wayland graduates, Rev. Matt Friese at Hillside Baptist, Anchorage, and Rev. Jim Hamilton, at Muldoon Road Baptist, were called to pastor these congregations. Goals are to open a branch in the Wasilla-Palmer area in 1997 and in the Kenai-Soldotna area in 1998. How many other hearts will be touched by the Spirit of God? How many lives will be enriched and equipped to become positive influences on the nation and the world? So much remains to be seen of what God has done, is doing, and will do as Wayland reaches out for Christ through Christian education.

UPDATE OF WAYLAND HISTORY TO 2021

"Wayland Really Cares"

In Alaska that has been Wayland's motto, representing its educational focus and Christian mission since 1985. The past 25 years of that time show an exciting history of many blessings.

In 1995 Wayland was located at the Alaska Center in the Boniface Mall on Northern Lights Boulevard. By 1999, enrollments state-wide had reached 700, and Wayland leadership decided it was time to form two separate campuses: one in Anchorage under the leadership of Dr. Jeff Anderson, and the other in Fairbanks under the leadership of Dr. John Copeland. Subsequently, enrollments grew at both locations and to more than 650 students at the Anchorage Campus alone.

In August, 2000 the Anchorage Campus reached a milestone by offering its first Master's Program--and by August of 2003 a Master's of Christian Ministry to provide theological education to Alaskans. Since then, graduate degree programs have expanded to more than 10 offerings.

In June 2005 Anderson also expanded the Anchorage campus to Wasilla in order to meet needs there--and a year later moved the Anchorage center to its present location off Muldoon Road in east Anchorage. For the first time in its Alaskan adventure, Wayland was no longer in a strip mall. The Parkside Center nicely accommodates Wayland's needs and has enabled Wayland to be the JBER/Elmendorf's official CLEP testing center as well as a host site for numerous churches and Stream Academy charter middle school.

Ironically, Wayland's move to Parkside completed an amazing full circle of events. The congregation where Wayland-Anchorage first located in 1985 was with Faith Baptist Church on Wisconsin Avenue. That congregation eventually merged with Parkside Community Church to become Faith Community Church. Faith Community Church's worship center was the Parkside facility Wayland purchased . . . and after selling to Wayland, that same Faith Community Church then started meeting in the Faith Baptist Church facility on Wisconsin Avenue!



After 15 years as the Anchorage dean, overseeing significant growth and numerous facility moves, Dr. Anderson transitioned to full-time Religion faculty member status in August 2007. He handed the reins of dean to successor Dr. Eric Ash, who later also served as the interim dean of the Fairbanks campus for three years prior to the promotion and appointment of current campus dean, Dr. Beth Durbin. Besides personnel changes, the Fairbanks campus also experienced several site moves on Eielson AFB and from Fairbanks proper to its current location at North Pole—which is well-positioned to accommodate the much-anticipated arrival of F-35 Joint Strike Fighter squadrons to Eielson.

In 2010, Wayland celebrated 25 years in Alaska with staff members and students joining the Scenic Foothills community to engage in a “Spruce Up the Community” project. They collected trash along Muldoon Road and cleaned up landscaping in four municipal plots. The event culminated with a Wayland-sponsored picnic and involved nearly 100 attendees.

That October Wayland conducted fall commencement exercises with Alaska Governor Sean Parnell as guest speaker. Since that time, Governor Mike Dunleavy and State Representatives Lance Pruitt and (now Senator) Lora Reinbold have also been guest speakers—as well as Alaska Baptist Resource Network Executive Director Dr. Randy Covington (also a Wayland graduate). In spring 2020, US Senator Dan Sullivan was scheduled as guest speaker until the COVID 19 pandemic caused the graduation to be virtual-only, with Dr. Ash speaking to the class in a YouTube video. Since 2018, the Wayland Alumni Association has sponsored an annual Outstanding Alumni Award, which has now recognized the following recipients: Pastor Undra Parker of Shiloh Missionary

Baptist Church; Pastor Tom Hoffman of Fairview Loop Baptist Church; and Mr. Monte Smith of Anchorage. Highlighting each graduation for more than 10 years have been the glorious hand bells of Sylvia Rylander and voice of Keith Bennett, accompanied on piano by Paula Smith.

In addition to graduating thousands of Alaskans, Wayland has conducted numerous noteworthy programs benefitting students and the Anchorage community: bi-annual Spiritual Emphasis programs; Wayland Women’s Bible Study; Wayland Alaska Missions; and the award-winning student chapter of the Society of Human Resource Management. Dr. Jeff Anderson and Dr. Don Ashley have both completed highly successful sabbatical projects; Anderson has led Wayland trips to the

Holy Land, Palau, and other locations; and Ashley has taken on directorship of Wayland’s Kenya Campus. For 7 years Ash has taught monthly study skills training courses on JBER; conducted certificate training programs with Hope Community Resources and at Spring Creek Correctional Center; and he has served Alaska as a Commissioner for the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education. Wayland has sponsored VA Chaplain training programs, Colson Fellows programs, Colossians Conflict Resolution Training, Anchorage Evangelical Pastors’ Association gatherings, and Anchorage Ride of Silence bike rides, to name just a few.



Drs. Elane Seebo, Eric Ash, Don Ashley, and Bruce Rowell enjoying a speech by Dr. Jeff Anderson

Ranked 4th nationally for best return on investment by the *Wall Street Journal*, Wayland has been facing recent enrollment drawdowns across the nation that have stressed many universities to the breaking point. Yet, with the Lord’s help, Wayland continues “to really care” in its mission of reaching Alaskans with educational opportunities taught from a Christian worldview—a testament to the Lord’s many blessings in Alaska.

Mosaic Campus Ministries

est. 2016, Anchorage, Alaska

The name for this new thing God is doing is *Mosaic*. Several close friends prayed long and hard, wrestling over what to call this campus club. *Why Mosaic?* The term mosaic symbolizes a **re-purposed design**. Most often the artist creates a piece utilizing small bits of worthless stone, tile or glass, transforming it into something beautiful, something worth *displaying*. Trash to treasure. Beauty from ashes. Is this not what the Lord desires for and from *us*? Following our surrender, Jesus makes us *whole* and holy, hiding us behind His cross. We are made **new**, and our peace, joy, and hope are found *only* in Him.

But we desire to go deeper with our students. Unlike a hodge-podge of chipped and broken pottery crafted into a piece of decoration, the blood of Christ makes us *useful*. The Lord’s daily discipline coupled with our intentional time in the Word challenges us to serve an eternal purpose. And the Creator goes even further, knitting together all of our broken and healed hearts, christening us the church, *His bride*.

The University of Alaska, Anchorage (UAA) is desperate for this truth. And the students aren’t the only ones hungry for the gospel.

Don’t take for granted the opportunity to strike up a conversation. One administrator asked “*What are you guys doing on campus?*” An open door. You can guess what happened next. The question wasn’t just answered; but the gospel was shared. Sensing hesitation regarding large churches, the questioner was encouraged to visit one of the local church plants, and later that afternoon, was given an engraved Bible. The questioner had never owned a copy of God’s Word.

Isn’t this what planting and sowing seeds is all about?

Mosaic Campus Ministry is a student organization affiliated with the Chugach Baptist Association, the Alaska Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board to minister to college students at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. Its primary objective is to Help Students Know Christ – This is achieved by REACHING students for Christ, CONNECTING them to like-minded believers and to the local church, STRENGTHENING their faith walk and teaching them how to live a MISSIONAL lifestyle. The Mosaic Campus Ministry is about helping students achieve excellence in all parts of their lives and enabling them to be a more vital part in their churches and community.

Alaska Baptist Messenger

Alaska Baptist Milepost

Single Page Mimeographed Report to America

On November 24, 1944, William A. Perry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Anchorage, mimeographed a single page “report to America” from First Baptist Church and mailed it out to friends. The first issue contained a plea for more Baptist preachers to come to Alaska to begin churches. Other denominational papers reported this plea, which resulted in Curtis O. Dunkin coming to Fairbanks, J.T. Spurlin to Juneau and Felton Griffin and B. Clarence Evans coming to Anchorage.

Alaska Baptist Messenger -Best Baptist Paper in Alaska

The Alaska Baptist Messenger continued to be a “free paper” until March, 1946. When the Alaska Baptist Convention was organized, the Messenger was changed to a paid subscription of \$1 per year. William Petty continued as editor until B.I. Carpenter, the pastor of First Baptist Church, Ketchikan, was elected editor in September 1948. Brother Carpenter served as editor of the Messenger until January, 1956, when L.A. Watson, newly elected executive director, became the editor. B.I. enthusiastically promoted the Alaska Messenger at every meeting as “the best Baptist paper in Alaska.” Since

Brother Carpenter’s resignation, all editors of the Alaska Baptist Messenger have been state staff members.

Judy Rice Elected Editor

In 1981, the Alaska Baptist Convention elected Judy Rice as editor of the Alaska Baptist Messenger. Judy was the second woman in the Southern Baptist Convention to be named editor of a state Baptist newspaper.

Six-Page Printed Paper

Today the Alaska Baptist Messenger is a six-page printed paper with a monthly circulation of about 2,000, at an annual subscription rate of five dollars. Cloyd Sullins, Executive Director of Alaska Baptist Convention, is also serving as editor of the Alaska Baptist Messenger.

Name and Delivery Method Changes

Beginning with the January 2013 issue, the name of the publication was changed to Alaska Baptist Milepost. With the July 2013 issue, the print version of the newsletter was discontinued in favor of digital dissemination.

Alaska Baptist Messenger

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ALASKA BAPTIST CONVENTION

Vol. I

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA JUNE, 1946

No. 3

BY HIGHWAY TO FAIRBANKS

Rev. Felton Griffin

Friday morning May 23, Mrs. Harvey Cantser, my wife and myself started over the roads of Alaska to drive from Anchorage to Fairbanks. Some had given us bad reports on the roads and the highway commission did not encourage us to make the trip but we started anyway and were happy to find the roads much better than reported.

Leaving Anchorage we drove to Palmer up the broad Matunaska Valley past farms that revealed the productivity of Alaskan soil. The farms all have a look of prosperity and growth.

After a while we began to climb into the mountains and soon we were twisting above the valley through Chickaloon Pass and looking down on the river and broad valley below at scenes that cannot be duplicated elsewhere in all the world. The further we went the more we realized that this is a country of unusual and breath taking magnitude. Everything in Alaska is great in magnitude.

The time of our departure from Anchorage was 4 A.M. but already the sun was shining. as we approached the upper end of the Valley we could see the Matunaska Glacier looming bright below us.

Our first stop was at Sheep Mountain Inn 103 miles from Anchorage. We stood in the road there and counted eleven sheep on the side of a mountain above us. Already we had seen a moose. Before the trip had ended we saw almost every animal of Alaska with the exception of a bear.

The next stop was Gulkana on the Gulkana river, at the famous Santa Clause Lodge where we stoped and took some pictures then moved on.

The Richardson Highway dirrect to Fairbanks was not yet open therefore we turned right from Gulkana over the Tok cutoff toward the Tok Juntcion on the Alcan Highway. This was a narrow road and very crooked.

On this road we lost all our brake fluid when a front wheel brake cylander broke but we did some repair work, put in substitute fluid (there are no filling stations to buy supplies) and went on though our brakes were almost nothing for

for sometime. Rather slowly we went on until we came to Tok Junction where we found a road camp still under the U. S. Army and a stort where gasoline was available at 67 cents per gallon. We filled our tank here and as rooms for lodgeing were not available we pushed on.

Traveling from Tok Junction was good over the broad Alcan. When people speak of the horrors of Alaskan Highway we can smile. The Alaskan Highways are good roads, well kept and much travelled. The bridges were all of concrete or steel; "the road is smoth and wide come on up."

We took turns sleeping and arrived in Fairbanks at 5 A. M. Saturday morning, 25 hours after leaving Anchorage.

The services Sunday were well attended. The church at Fairbanks is blessed with some faithfull men and women who are devoted to the work of our Lord. A good beginning has been made for the work in the interior city and predict that this church will grow rapidly in number and Spiritual power. Baptist everywhere should be much in prayer for this church and should support them both financially and in testimony. Especially now do they need our prayers that God may send them a pastor. The church should have enough financial support so that the new pastor could give his full time to the work. A great work can be done in Fairbanks and a strong church can arise from this work.

Monday evening at five oclock we started on the return trip over the Richardson Highway. We crossed the Alaska Range over Summit Pass, drove for several miles beside Summit Lake, spent the night on the road on top of the mountain then drove on Tuesday morning. Some day when we have more time and space we may tell of the Glacier we crossed, the many fishing streams we passed, the wonderfull scenery we viewed but words could never tell the story aright.

To all who live in Anchorage, we urge that you plan to make the trip in August to the Alaska Baptist Convention.

ALASKA BAPTIST MESSENGER

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William A. Petty-----Editor

William C. Baker-----Asst. Ed.

Sgt. Johnson -----Manager

LATEST * LIQUOR * SURVEYS

Latest and most reliable surveys indicate that there approximately 45,000, 000 drinkers in the United States. Of this total 3,000,000 have become "problem drinkers" or "addicts burdening tax payers as criminals, deased, drunken or dependent social debris.

"The cost for caring for alcholics in the mental hospitals of the United States is approximately \$ 13, 000,000 per year.

Dr. Joseph Thiman - Boston

Americans spend an average of about \$ 56 for every man, woman, and child for alcoholic drinks in 1945. The total bill, \$7,800,000,000.

"WITH THE HEART MAN BELIEVES "

A brilliant lawyer in New York City some time ago spoke to a prominent minister of that city, asking him if he really believed that Christ arose from the dead. The minister replied that he did, and asked the privilege of presenting proof to the lawyer. The lawyer took the material offered in proof and studied it. Later he returned to the minister and said: " I am convinced that Jesus really did arise from the dead; but," he added "I'm no nearer being a Christian than I was before. I thought the difficulty was with my head. I find that it is really with my heart."

Sunday School Times

"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with the other, and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's son, cleanseth us from all sin "

I John 1:7

" This is my commandment that ye love one another, as I have loved you."

John 15:12

SUPPORTING THE WORK OF GOD

The work of our Lord is not a work of charity. By many it is listed as charity and when any gift is made to the work of the church it is often, too often dubbed as a "donation".

It would be better to say that we invest our money then to say we donate our money, for any fund in the work of God is invested to the salvation of souls, the emptying of jails, the finding of the lost. This is an investment in abiding things.

Some people seem to think that the proper way to support a church is to have cake sales, rummage sales and other social affairs. Such things are foreign to the word and to the heart that is dedicated to the work of the Kingdom. God's plan is not to make his house a house of merchandise.

What then is God's plan for the financing of his work in the world?

We can look at the history of his people and see plainly enough.

Abraham tithed before the law.

The tithe was incorporated into the law.

The tithe is still recognized by Christ as something, " ye ought to have done."

The tithe is still the proper way for those who would serve with their means. God has (and always will) blessed the tither.

Some men say that they cannot afford to tithe.

I say that Christians cannot afford to do anything less than tithe. It always costs more to oppose God than to walk with him.

It is robbery not to tithe " but ye say wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings."

Malachi 3:8

If we will only do as God has planned we will not only be a blessing but we will receive many blessings as well.

Anchorage-First Baptist Church
Bulletin

Men may fail, plans may fail, we may fail , and probably will for there is a constant evidence of failure about us but Christ will never fail. Let us trust Him.

"The proof of love is not in saying pleasant things, but in doing hard things. Selected

SIN IS A REALITY

The Apostle Paul was right when he said that our battle was not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers.

When our earthly father Adam gave himself and the universe over to Satan, he committed high treason against the Father-Creator of life. He and all future generations became traitors against the Father. You were in the loins of Adam on that day. He chose deliberately to be like God - to know the evil one. The loving Father would have shielded him from this awful fate. Adam was free just like we are free -- his choice was to sin. A blanket of darkness hovered over man that day. He separated himself from God. His Spirit died and Satans spirit moved in. Since that day Satan has written the chapters of history which we read.

The human race just exist from one tragedy to the next. We study about them in school. Satan planned the wars, slavery, bloodshed and sorrows. That is his air and nature. He stops calamities only when there is danger of his being recognized by his worshipers.

Our Father God is not dead neither is he asleep. He promised His mankind a redeemer and he brought it to pass nineteen hundred years ago. Even though Satan is the emporer of this world in the end God does and will get the glory. He is a just and loving Father. Man blinded by sin always makes the choice - those choices have made our history. God loves his wayward children so much that he came as the suffering Son to be slain as a supreme sacrifice for sin. During those three days his body was in the tomb - His Spirit was fighting the battle of battles with the powers of hell. "Praise God He was a conqueror over Satan." He arose a victor.

So as many as place their trust in him, now have the power in his name to put Satan out. We are now more than conquerors through him who loves us.

The "principalities and powers" of hell cannot pluck us out of his almighty hand. With the forgiveness of our sin by our trusting in Christ we now have the eternal life of our Father. Those who trust in the Son of God have a rebirth of Spirit. Indeed he then breathes into them the breath of eternal life. They do not and cannot die. They are now restored to the "Garden of Eden." The Kingdom of Heaven is within us. The Spirit of a

loving Father - God now enters into our bodies upon our invitation and lives within us to comfort, and companion with us. Now Satan has no legal right or otherwise to contrroll us. Indeed we are now more than conquerors in Jesus Name.

Editorial

FAITHFUL CROWD THIS IS

Mohammedanism is apparently becoming a world force. There are 300,000,000 moslems in the world, and although there are many more Christians, authorities reply that at least 95% of the mohammedans practice their faith scrupulously. How do the members of your church compare with that percentage when you have thought out the answer, you will be looking at the problem of making the Christian church a world force.

Charles A. Wells

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

by B. C. Evans

When we desire permanent growth we look for it to be steady and continuous, and over the months since our Sunday School was established we have had that steady growth. The first two months of this quarter is a little more than double what it was for April and May of last year.

Our record attendance is 71 and that goal has been reached several times.

We are now starting some new classes and need more room.

We here in Alaska are constantly losing good workers but it seems there are always others to take their places.

This week and next our church is cooperating with others in the city in a Vacation Bible School.

BACK OF THE LOAF

Back of the loaf is the snowy flour
Back of the flour the mill;
And back of the mill is the wheat,
and the shower,
And the sun, and the Father's will
Selected

MISSIONARY COLUMN ALASKA'S CHURCHES BAPTIST CHURCHES

There are many towns and villages in Alaska where a Baptist preacher has never spoken the New Testament message of eternal life. We are often amazed that there are so many religious sects; yet there are some evangelical churches that closely resemble the Baptist fundamentals. These are here because in the past Baptists have failed to move in and possess the land for Christ. Let us who are Baptist take heed, if we fail to carry forth the message of love and life -- God can, "raise up the very stones to cry out."

Just as real world prosperity and happiness can be measured by Christian loyalty -- so can a local church measure its growth, life, and vitality by the real interest and giving of time and funds. This is the important phase in a Christian world relation. Be missionary in season an out of season. You can go into all Alaska with your gifts to Alaska Missions.

May we ever remember that the Alaska Baptist Convention exist for the main purpose of a Cooperative Mission Program. If your church gift or personal gift to the Convention is designated Mission Fund 100% of it will go for missions.

We can cooperate in this work with our Lord and Savior.

THE A.B.C. BUSINESS EDITOR SAYS: ALASKA WANTS CHRISTIANS

Alaska has had a mass of people coming and going. Far too many of these have been interested only in making money and then returning to the States with fat purses. Too few come with the intention of serving God, and making Alaska a better place to live.

Too often it seems when people board the plane for Alaska, they bring along everything but their religion. How pathetic to hear that familiar statement from the average man on the street, "Oh, I used to go to church in the States but haven't started here yet."

Alaska is calling Christians like the early God fearing men who built the foundation of the United States. Not a mamby-pamby so called Christian who is afraid to express his beliefs.

Alaska is an infant and needs to be reared in a Christian home. Adopt the child and make it yours.

THE A. B. C. SECRETARY SAYS:

The first Annual Session of the Alaska Baptist Convention will be held in Fairbanks Aug. 21 and 22 of this year. We hope that you will come.

Distances in Alaska are great, sometimes we have a hard time getting places but we can go if we really want too. Labor conventions, Doctors conventions and other conventions are held. People get to them. Will God's people do less than others? Will we be contented to simply say it can't be done and let it go at that? I pray not. We can go if we want to.

Let us all plan now to have a large group at the Alaska Baptist Convention next August.

MANY FROM ANCHORAGE PLAN TRIP TO CONVENTION

If plans work out for people of the Anchorage church many of them will be in Fairbanks for the convention next August. The plan is to drive through in a party that will make up five or six cars. They plan on making the trip in two days and stopping over on Monday night for a big encampment together.

This trip will be one never to be forgotten by those who make it. Fun-fellowship-scenery-all will be yours. Get ready Fairbanks many will be up in August from Anchorage.

JOB FOR ALASKA'S CHRISTIAN WOMEN

A short time ago while standing at a busy intersection on the main streets of Anchorage I observed the women smoking cigarets for the space of five short minutes, the number was astounding. A few evenings later I noted the women that visited a cocktail lounge at the same intersection with the same astounding results. The Christian women in Anchorage have a big job before them. A great percent of the younger children enrolled in the recent Bible school have never attended church or Sunday School before and two-thirds of those we have come alone.

Please send me _____ years subscription to the Alaska Baptist Messenger at \$1.00 pre year. NAME- _____ ADDRESS _____

HISTORY OF INDIVIDUAL CHURCHES

in alphabetical order

HISTORICAL TABLE

| Session | Date | Place | President | 1st Vice-Pres. | 2nd Vice-Pres. | Rec. Secretary | Exec. Secretary | Annual Sermon |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Organized | Mar 27-28, 1946 | First, Anchorage | Felton Griffin | | | C. O. Dunkin | | J. T. Spurlin |
| 1st | Aug 22-23, 1946 | First, Anchorage | J. T. Spurlin | Odell Lane | | C. O. Dunkin | Felton Griffin | Felton Griffin |
| 2nd | Aug 30-31, 1947 | First, Juneau | J. T. Spurlin | Odell Lane | | O. R. Cary | Felton Griffin | O. R. Cary |
| 3rd | Sep 8-9, 1948 | First, Anchorage | J. T. Spurlin | Felton Griffin | | Helen Carpenter | B. C. Evans | O. R. Cary |
| | | | L. L. Richardson | | | | | |
| 4th | Aug 24-25, 1949 | First, Fairbanks | Felton Griffin | O. R. Cary | | W. A. Petty | B. C. Evans | H. F. Burns |
| 5th | Aug 15-17, 1950 | Calvary, Anchorage | Jimmy Bolton | O. R. Cary | | Jane Chandler | W. F. Lewis | Odell Lane |
| 6th | Aug 14-16, 1951 | Kodiak | Jimmy Bolton | Felton Griffin | | Ruth W. Murdock | Russell Simmons | B. I. Carpenter |
| 7th | Jul 29-31, 1952 | First, Ketchikan | Felton Griffin | O. R. Cary | | John Defoore | Russell Simmons | O. R. Cary |
| 8th | Sep 22-24, 1953 | First, Fairbanks | O. R. Cary | Velton Walker | | Avery Richey | Russell Simmons | Dan Tyson |
| | | | | James Rose | | | | |
| 9th | Aug 17-19, 1954 | First, Juneau | Dan Tyson | Avery Richey | | Georgia Simmons | Russell Simmons | John Denton |
| 10th | Aug 23-25, 1955 | First, Valdez | John Defoore | John Dickerson | | Georgia Simmons | Russell Simmons | M. L. McKay |
| 11th | Aug 7-8, 1956 | Faith, Spenard | B. I. Carpenter | John Dickerson | | Georgia Simmons | L. A. Watson | James Rose |
| 12th | Aug 13-15, 1957 | First, Anchorage | B. I. Carpenter | James Rose | M. L. McKay | Georgia Simmons | L. A. Watson | Richard Miller |
| 13th | Aug 12-14, 1958 | Calvary, Anchorage | E. E. Evans | Harry Borah | | Georgia Simmons | L. A. Watson | |
| 14th | Aug 11-13, 1959 | First, Sitka | Felton Griffin | O. W. Marson | Robert Gingrich | Mrs. Donald Davis | L. A. Watson | Carl Elder |
| 15th | Oct 23-27, 1960 | First, Fairbanks | Carl Elder | Jack Turner | Marion B. Dunham | Mrs. Donald Davis | L. A. Watson | John Jeffcoat |
| | | | Jack Turner | M. B. Dunham | | | | |
| 16th | Oct 24-26, 1961 | Faith, Spenard | Bill Parson | James Dotson | H. M. McCowen | Mrs. Donald Davis | L. A. Watson | James Akin |
| | | | James Dotson | H. M. McCowen | | | | |
| 17th | Aug 14-16, 1962 | First, Valdez | James Dotson | John Jeffcoat | William Hansen | James Henderson | L. A. Watson | S. W. Driggers |
| | | | John Jeffcoat | William Hansen | | | | |
| 18th | Aug 13-15, 1963 | First, Anchorage | John Jeffcoat | William Hansen | Aubrey Short | Frances Sutherlin | William Hansen | Felton Griffin |
| | | | | Aubrey Short | | | | |
| 19th | Aug 13-14, 1964 | First, Ketchikan | Aubrey Short | James Whisenhant | Samuel Ganaway | John Camp | William Hansen | M. L. McKay |
| | | | James Whisenhant | Samuel Ganaway | | | | |
| 20th | Aug 10-12, 1965 | University, College | James Whisenhant | John Canning | Oliver W. Marson | Bernice Gillespie | William Hansen | John Canning |
| | | | | Oliver W. Marson | | | | |
| 21st | Aug 16-18, 1966 | Muldoon Road | John Canning | O. W. Marson | Leo A. Josey | Bernice Gillespie | E. W. Hunke, Jr. | Edward Wolfe |
| | | | O. W. Marson | Leo A. Josey | | | | |
| 22nd | Nov 7-8, 1967 | First, Anchorage | O. W. Marson | Edward Wolfe | Leo A. Josey | Bernice Gillespie | E. W. Hunke, Jr. | Virgil Chron |
| 23rd | Aug 13-16, 1968 | First, Fairbanks | Edward Wolfe | Roy Moore | Marion B. Dunham | Milidene McConnell | E. W. Hunke, Jr. | Harley Shield |
| 24th | Aug 12-14, 1969 | First, Sitka | Edward Wolfe | Bill Duncan | Clifford McConnell | Milidene McConnell | E. W. Hunke, Jr. | James Akin |
| 25th | Aug 11-13, 1970 | First, Anchorage | Bill Duncan | Richard Miller | | Milidene McConnell | E. W. Hunke, Jr. | Felton Griffin |
| 26th | Aug 10-12, 1971 | University, College | Bill Duncan | Tom Kilpatrick | Rawls Pierce | Dixie L. Foster | J. Troy Prince | Vern Baker |
| 27th | Aug 15-17, 1972 | First, Juneau | Kelly Dickson | Herb Cotton | | Dixie L. Foster | J. Troy Prince | Tommie B. Allen |
| 28th | Aug 14-16, 1973 | First, Soldotna | Herb Cotton | Hollis Bryant | Louise Yarbrough | Dixie L. Foster | J. Troy Prince | Wesley Pruitt |
| 29th | Aug 13-15, 1974 | Calvary, Anchorage | Herb Cotton | Don Davis | Gene Medaris | Dixie L. Foster | J. Troy Prince | Earl Midkiff |
| 30th | Aug 12-14, 1975 | First, North Pole | Virgil Chron | Keith Foster | W. D. Kirk | Dixie L. Foster | J. Troy Prince | Clifford McConnell |
| 31st | Aug 10-12, 1976 | First, Sitka | Virgil Chron | Don Davis | Bill Lyons | Dixie L. Foster | J. Troy Prince | Don Davis |
| 32nd | Aug 16-18, 1977 | New Hope, Anch | Alvin Wood | Ferrell Mills | Bill Lyons | Dixie L. Foster | J. Troy Prince | Bill Lyons |
| 33rd | Nov 14-16, 1978 | First, Kenai | Alvin Wood | Ferrell Mills | Maurice Murdock | Dixie L. Foster | J. Troy Prince | Paul Greene |
| 34th | Aug 14-16, 1979 | First, Fairbanks | William B. Lyons | Louise Yarbrough | Maurice Murdock | Dixie L. Foster | Allen H. Meeks, Int | Bill D. Duncan |
| 35th | Aug 12-14, 1980 | Faith, Anchorage | William B. Lyons | Louise Yarbrough | Judson Owen | Dixie L. Foster | Allen H. Meeks, Int | Ferrell Mills |
| 36th | Aug 11-13, 1981 | First, Soldotna | Ferrell Mills | Al Allen | Roy Williams | Milidene McConnell | Allen H. Meeks, Int | John McClung |
| 37th | Aug 10-12, 1982 | Moose Creek, N.P. | Ferrell Mills | Roy Williams | | Shirley Miebs | John H. Allen | Bob Chadwick |
| 38th | Aug 9-11, 1983 | First, Anchorage | Roy Williams | Bill Branch | | Milidene McConnell | John H. Allen | Glen Little |

| Session | Date | Place | President | 1st Vice-Pres. | 2nd Vice-Pres. | Rec. Secretary | Exec. Secretary | Annual Sermon |
|---------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 39th | Aug 7-9, 1984 | First, Kenai | Roy Williams | Glen Little | Paul Brewer | Milidene McConnell | John H. Allen | Judson Owen |
| 40th | Aug 6-8, 1985 | University, Fairbanks | Neil Thompson | Royce Christmas | Bill Branch | Milidene McConnell | John H. Allen | Dale Holley |
| 41st | Aug 5-7, 1986 | First, Anchorage | Neil Thompson | Royce Christmas | Leonard Everman | Milidene McConnell | John H. Allen | Felton Griffin |
| 42nd | Nov 9-10, 1987 | First, Soldotna | Royce Christmas | Judson Owen | Johnny McCoy | LaVerne Bradshaw | Bill G. Duncan, Int | Don Tallison |
| | | | Judson Owen | Johnny McCoy | | | | |
| 43rd | Aug 9-10, 1988 | Muldoon Denali | Judson Owen | Carl Johnson | Johnny McCoy | LaVerne Bradshaw | Bill G. Duncan | Morris Wall |
| 44th | Aug 8-9, 1989 | Glacier Valley, Juneau | Judson Owen | Carl Johnson | Bill Branch | LaVerne Bradshaw | Bill G. Duncan | Marlin Starnes |
| 45th | Aug 7-8, 1990 | Shannon Park | A. B. Colyar | Mike Procter | Mark Kisselberg | LaVerne Bradshaw | Bill G. Duncan | Lewis McClen-don |
| 46th | Aug 6-7, 1991 | South Anchorage | A. B. Colyar | Mike Procter | Paul Brewer | LaVerne Bradshaw | Bill G. Duncan | Bob Jones |
| 47th | Aug 4-5, 1992 | First, Kenai | Walter Davidson | Mike Procter | Paul Brewer | LaVerne Bradshaw | Bill G. Duncan | Johnny Jackson |
| 48th | Aug 3-4, 1993 | First, North Pole | Walter Davidson | Johnny McCoy | | LaVerne Bradshaw | Bill G. Duncan | Paul Brewer |
| 49th | Aug 9-10, 1994 | College Heights | Tim Clark | Bob Jones | Paul Brewer | LaVerne Bradshaw | Bill G. Duncan | Tim Clark |
| 50th | Aug 8-9, 1995 | First, Anchorage | Tim Clark | Bob Jones | Dean Blankenship | LaVerne Bradshaw | W. C. Garland, Int | Felton Griffin |
| 51st | Aug 6-7, 1996 | First, Anchorage | Wally Smith | Shirley Miebs | | LaVerne Bradshaw | Cloyd Sullins | Earl Midkiff |
| 52nd | Aug 5-6, 1997 | Chapel, Juneau | Wally Smith | Terry Hill | Jim Clark | LaVerne Bradshaw | Cloyd Sullins | Bob Buster |
| 53rd | Aug 11-12, 1998 | University, Fairbanks | Wally Smith | Marvin Owen | Royce Christmas | LaVerne Bradshaw | Cloyd Sullins | Marvin Owen |
| 54th | Aug 10-11, 1999 | First, Wasilla | Marvin Owen | Georgie Owen | | LaVerne Bradshaw | Cloyd Sullins | Don Shannon |
| 55th | Aug 8-9, 2000 | Rabbit Creek, Anch | Marvin Owen | Denver Copeland | Georgie Owen | Debra Long | Cloyd Sullins | Jerry Pinkerton |
| 56th | Aug 7-8, 2001 | College Heights | Marvin Owen | Leon May | | Debra Long | David Baldwin | Johnny McCoy |
| 57th | Aug 6-7, 2002 | South Anchorage | Jack Green | Leon May | Scott Coffman | Judy Zach | David Baldwin | Terry Hill |
| 58th | Sep 30-Oct 1, 2003 | Moose Creek, N.P. | Leon May | John Mortensen | Mark Goodman | Judy Zach | David Baldwin | Frank Taylor |
| 59th | Oct 5-6, 2004 | Muldoon Road Bapt | Leon May | Mark Goodman | Bruce Rowell | Ruby Stogsdill | David Baldwin | Fred Stroud |
| 60th | Aug 16-17, 2005 | Glacier Valley, Juneau | Bruce Rowell | Tom Hoffman | Gary Cox | Ruby Stogsdill | David Baldwin | Bruce Rowell |
| 61st | Aug 15-16, 2006 | First, Fairbanks | Bruce Rowell | Gary Cox | Herb Johnston | Colleen Cannon | David Baldwin | Gary Cox |
| 62nd | Sep 25-26, 2007 | The Crossing@ Birchwood | Gary Cox | Charles Worthy | Ed Gregory | Colleen Cannon | David Baldwin | David George |
| 63rd | Sep 30-Oct 1, 2008 | FBC, Palmer | Gary Cox | Charles Worthy | Ed Gregory | Judy Zach | David Baldwin | John Forrester |
| 64th | Sep 29-30, 2009 | Lighthouse Community | Ed Gregory | Bryan Myers | John Jemar | Judy Zach | David Baldwin | Scott Coffman |
| 65th | Sep 28-29, 2010 | First Baptist Church, Wasilla | Ed Gregory | Bryan Myers | Tom Hoffman | Georgie Owens | David Baldwin | John Smith |
| 66th | Sep 27-28, 2011 | First, North Pole | Charles Worthy | Tom Hoffman | Garry Loeffler | Shirley Bearce | Mike Procter | Kerry Chadwick |
| 67th | Sep 25-26, 2012 | Rabbit Creek, Anch | Charles Worthy | Tom Hoffman | Garry Loeffler | Courtney Lyle | Mike Procter | Don Shannon |
| 68th | Sep 24-25, 2013 | Glacier Valley, Juneau | Don Shannon | Johnny McCoy Resigned (4/7/2013) | Jack Sherman | Mary Sue Foster | Mike Procter | Jimmie Stringer |
| | | | | Jack Sherman | | | | |
| 69th | Sep 29-Oct 1, 2014 | College Heights, Soldotna | Don Shannon | Jack Sherman | Harold Conrad | Mary Sue Foster | Mike Procter | Bryan Myers |
| 70th | Sep 28-30, 2015 | FBC, Palmer | Todd Burgess | Eric Ash | Harold Conrad | Judy Rice | Mike Procter | Tom Hoffman |
| 71st | Sep 26-28, 2016 | University Baptist-Fairbanks | Todd Burgess | Eric Ash | Eric Jones | Judy Rice | Randy Covington | Lawrence Ellison |
| 72nd | Sep 25-27, 2017 | FBC, Ketchikan @ Civic Center | Bryan Myers | Eric Jones | Tracy Simmons | Donna Fleury | Randy Covington | Gordon Mills |
| 73rd | Sep 25-26, 2018 | FBC, Wasilla | Bryan Myers | Tracy Simmons | Cliff Day | Donna Fleury | Randy Covington | Troy Gourley |
| 74th | Sep 24-25, 2019 | College Heights Baptist Church | Tracy Simmons | Scott Belmore | Cliff Day | Anna Allen | Randy Covington | Michael Bunton |
| 75th | Sep 28-29, 2020 | First Baptist Church, Anchorage | Tracy Simmons | Scott Belmore | Nathaniel Buck | Anna Allen | Randy Covington | Wilbert Mickens |

The Beginnings of Baptist Work in Alaska

Beginning

The story of the organization of First Baptist Church, Anchorage, spread through the Southern Baptist Convention as military chaplains brought the needs of Alaska to the attention of the Home Mission Board and Southern Baptists. The Home Missions magazine carried the story of the organization of First Baptist Church, Anchorage.

A year after the work started in Anchorage, Rev. Curtis O. Dunkin and his wife Alma came from Oklahoma to Fairbanks to start a mission. A few months later, Dr. J.T. Spurlin of Kentucky came to Juneau. These pastors were widely scattered but each was in a strategic area. God had planned it. All had been led by Him. Only Dr. Spurlin was sponsored by his former church. The others did secular work for a livelihood while building and pastoring their churches.

It was Felton H. Griffin, pastor of First Baptist Church, Anchorage, who called the three pastors together on March 27 - 28, 1946 for the organizational meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention for three basic reasons: (1) that the work might be united; (2) that they might encourage one another; and (3) that any future Baptist work might be welcomed and tied in with the work already established.

Brother Felton Griffin is reported to have said, "The beginning is not pretentious. The end of the work we cannot predict for this is the work of God." Thus the Alaska Baptist Convention was organized.

The first meeting of the convention was held in Fairbanks, August 21-22, 1946, with three churches represented. Transportation was limited, difficult and expensive. It took 24 hours of almost constant driving to get over 482 miles of unpaved highway from Anchorage to Fairbanks. Rev. Orland Cary, the new pastor of the Fairbanks church, welcomed the few conventioners who came starved for fellowship. The first meeting was a great success. All churches reported growth.

One matter of business at the first convention was a recommendation by William Petty that "the chairman appoint a committee to study the possibility of starting an orphanage for needy children."

Felton H. Griffin was elected the first Executive Secretary of the Alaska Baptist Convention (1946-47) followed by three other unpaid executive secretaries: B.C. Evans (1948-49); William F. (Bill) Lewis (1950) and Russell Simmons (1951-55). Brother Griffin said, "All we did was act as a clearing house for funds sent for missions in Alaska."

"A Red Letter Day"

For five years (1943-48) the Southern Baptist churches in Alaska had no official ties to the Southern Baptist Convention. Records show that First Baptist Church, Fairbanks, was sponsored by First Baptist Church, Lafayette, Louisiana; First Baptist Church, Juneau, was sponsored by Antioch Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan; First Baptist Church, Ketchikan was sponsored by First Baptist Church, Albuquerque, New Mexico. So when W. C. Boone of Kentucky made a motion on May 21, 1948, during the Southern Baptist Convention "that the Home Mission Board be requested to investigate the desirability and possibility of entering the Territory of Alaska with a missionary program" that was a RED LETTER DAY for Alaska Baptists. Since 1949, the Home Mission Board has provided funds for construction of church buildings and appointed missionaries. This was the beginning of the cooperative agreement of the Home Mission Board, SBC, and the Alaska Baptist Convention.

Growth and Expansion

In the 1967 State Missions Season of Prayer program, Richard Miller, pioneer missionary/pastor, listed five factors he believed explain why Southern Baptist work in Alaska experienced remarkable growth in the first 25 years:

"First, the timing was exactly right. In the early 1940s when Southern Baptist churches began in Fairbanks and in Anchorage, Alaska was on the verge of the biggest boom in its history.

"Second, the early leaders had remarkable abilities. Without this, the growth might not have been so widespread. The vision and aggressiveness of Aubrey Halsell, Felton Griffin, Curtis Dunkin and John Defoore cannot be minimized.

"Third, the contribution of the Home Mission Board was most influential. It is almost impossible to measure just how much this Mission Board did provide. The thousands of dollars expended speak loudly, but perhaps more vital was the assistance given through the numerous Simultaneous Revival Campaigns, to say nothing of the summer missionary program.

"Fourth, Alaska Baptists followed the New Testament method. The winning of souls and the building of churches was at the forefront. They did not make the mistake Northern Baptists did in expending all its energy and finances in institutions.

"Fifth, and most important of all, the work of God was evident in and through what was accomplished. Despite human weaknesses and failures, and these were present in these early years, the Holy Spirit of God was at work."

Agape Fellowship

Palmer, Alaska

Date Begun: 2016

Date Constituted: 2018

Sponsoring Church: Glacier Valley Baptist Church, Juneau

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Agape Fellowship was planted in 2016 by Pastor Nathaniel Buck who moved to Palmer from Juneau. God has been good to the church during the past five years as they faithfully proclaim the gospel of God's amazing grace. The people of the church are so appreciative of those who have gone before and labored in Alaska over the many decades up to this day. They feel that they truly stand on the shoulders of giants. The attached picture of the church was taken during the 2020 COVID19 pandemic where meetings were "social-distance-style" in a park. Regardless of the obstacles that may come this church body will continue to be faithful to proclaim the gospel of Christ until Christ returns!



Alaska Iu-Mienh First Baptist Church

Anchorage, Alaska

Date Begun: 2001

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Anchorage

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Pastors through the years

- David Fong, January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2004
- Steven Thungc, January 1, 2005 to present

Anchor Baptist Church

Craig, Alaska

Date Begun: July 1993

Date Constituted: May 25, 2001

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Petersburg

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Craig Mission

Craig, located on Prince of Wales Island, is the fastest growing city in Southeast Alaska. It currently boasts a population of 2,000. Craig Preaching Point was begun by First Baptist Church, Petersburg, in July 1993, and Craig Baptist Mission was organized in November 1994 by church planter, Dean Blankenship (Nadine) who is serving as pastor. Baptist Sunday morning and evening services are held in the Seventh Day Adventist Church with an attendance of between 30-40 each week.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

The mission at Craig constituted as Anchor Baptist Church May 25, 2001.

Pastors through the years

- Paul Foster, July 5, 2000, to June 1, 2010
- Keith Webb, associate pastor, January 1, 2001, to December 31, 2002
- Dean Blankenship, October 1, 2010, to August 1, 2014
- Russ Daines, interim, September 15, 2014, to October 18, 2015
- Cody Schwegel, October 18, 2015, to present

Anchor Baptist Church is in the process of changing their name to Liberty Church. The expected date to finalize the process is April 2021.

Big Lake Baptist Church

Big Lake, Alaska

Date Begun: August 1956

Date Constituted: May 1982; reconstituted January 18, 2005

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Palmer

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Big Lake Homesteaders

Interest in a Baptist mission in the Big Lake Community was first shown by a homesteading couple, King and Erma White, in the winter of 1955. The Whites were members of First Baptist Church, Palmer. In the spring of 1956, Sgt. and Mrs. Bill Hornsby, a mili-

tary couple, homesteaded in the Big Lake community. They, too, were members of First Baptist Church, Palmer. In June 1955, deacons from First



Original tent and VBS students, August 1956

Baptist Church, Palmer and three men from the Big Lake community met to study the possibility of starting a Baptist mission. During the meeting, Lynn Wright, a homesteader, offered five acres of land for a mission site. The following week, Mr. Wright cleared a spot and made it ready for a building. A quonset hut was purchased by the Alaska Baptist Convention and moved onto the site in November.

In August 1956, John Dickerson (Alvilda), pastor of First Baptist Church, Palmer,

and summer missionaries Norman Lytle, Edith Nunn and Coy Long conducted a Vacation Bible School in two tents on the Hornsby homestead. Forty-two children were enrolled and five professions of faith were reported. Many of the parents made rededications to Christ on commencement night.



Log cabin and quonset hut, circa 1957

Big Lake Baptist Mission

John Dickerson resigned the First Baptist Church, Palmer, to become full-time pastor of the Big Lake Mission in the fall of 1957. Brother Dickerson secured logs and supervised the construction of an attractive two-story log chapel. Gifts from the Home Mission Board and the Holloway Street Baptist Church, Durham, North Carolina, and the Poplar Springs Baptist Church, Tugaloo, Georgia, provided funds for the building costs. Brother Dickerson resigned June 15, 1958, to go to Fairbanks to start University Baptist Church. Clifford McConnell became pastor of Palmer church and provided support to the mission.

Four young men pastored the mission in the next few years. Don Smith, 1958-59, was followed by three military men, Bill Church, Ed Russell and James Simmons.

The Big Lake Mission opened and closed over the years. In 1969, the Grandview Baptist Church, Anchorage, sponsored the reopening of the mission by James Akin. Three laymen from Grandview,

Johnny Newton, Dyke Brandon and Gene Bender, led the Big Lake Mission for several years. When Grandview could no longer provide leadership, the mission closed. Faith Baptist Church, Anchorage, resumed the work in October 1976 with Charles Rose as pastor.

Jerry Pinkerton became pastor in August 1977. Since that time, the church has become involved in two major building programs and has experienced continued growth in this growing community. Big Lake Baptist Church was constituted in May 1982.

Big Lake celebrated its 35th anniversary in August 1991. A highlight of the celebration were testimonies from long-time members who shared what the church had meant in their lives. Mrs. Florra Hornsby, one of the founders, came from San Antonio, Texas, and shared about the beginning of the Big Lake Mission.



Log cabin with first addition and start of second addition, circa 1982

During Pastor Pinkerton's ministry, six members have surrendered for the preaching ministry. Two of these men were ordained by the church and two of them, Dawson Lindblom and Matthew Friese, are currently serving as pastors of churches in Alaska. The church has also ordained three deacons during this same period.

Don Smith, a former Big Lake pastor, is currently serving as a foreign missionary in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. James Simmons, another former pastor, is serving with the Baptist Sunday School Board.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Building Programs

As of July 2020, Big Lake Baptist Church (BLBC) was in its fourth building program:

1. 1957: The log cabin was built. During construction, a Quonset hut was used for services. It is not known where the fledgling congregation met between the August 1956 VBS and the move into the Quonset hut.
2. 1978: An addition consisted of a new auditorium with baptistry at ground level, a kitchen, bathrooms, a fellowship hall and nursery downstairs.
3. 1983: An addition added a new foyer, sanctuary, baptistry and a storage room at ground level. A second-story sound room and classrooms were also added. A new full basement provided a new kitchen, fellowship hall, bathrooms, storage and mechanical/janitorial room. Portions of the first addition became the bathrooms, library and classrooms.

With the knowledge that the Parks Highway would be upgraded in time, and it was likely that the changes would result in the loss of still more property, the congregation began seeking an alternative site in the late 1990s. A ten-acre site on Marigold, near Pittman Road, was purchased. An adjacent property owner included clearing of our parcel as they developed theirs. However, the area became quite industrial and road changes took a portion which divided the

land into two portions, thus making it unsuitable for church use. Therefore, that parcel was sold for a sufficient amount to purchase a new twenty-five acre parcel. In addition, there were sufficient funds to do site development, design and installation of utilities, as well as completion of the exterior. The congregation opted to not go into debt and to place the existing building on the market. The completion date of the new building was dependent upon that sale.

4. 2017: Work began on site preparation and construction of a new building at a location 1.5 miles from the original site. Due to the multiple changes to Big Lake Road and the Parks Highway, the original five-acre



second addition completed, circa 2017

parcel was reduced to about ¼ acre. Additional impacts of redesign of Big Lake Road will severely impact accessibility of the driveway. As of July 2020, the exterior of the new building on Kenlar is complete.

Demographics

Throughout the years, the population of the area has been fluid. In early years, many of the leaders of the Mission were military. Later economic and political influences affected the stability of the population.

BLBC is a culturally, ethnically and economically diverse congregation, the members of which have origins throughout the state, the nation, and the world. In addition, a large percentage originate from non-Southern Baptist doctrinal roots, which become blended into the common goal of focusing on the teachings of Christ rather than cultural traditions.

Although the members are not financially wealthy, BLBC has gained the reputation of being a giving church.

Missions and Ministries

Throughout the years, BLBC has benefitted from being the recipient of financial support and volunteer assistance from the Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board), the Valeria Sherard State Mission Offering, many summer missionaries and short-term mission teams.

In more recent years, BLBC became active in international missions. Currently, multiple missions, both short-term and long-term, throughout Alaska are accomplished. In addition, BLBC is deeply involved in a wide variety of ongoing ministries throughout the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and beyond.

Influencing Impacts

Despite a series of events, a mobile community population, changing of pastors and other staff, traumas, setbacks, four building programs, good decisions, and poor decisions, man-made and natural disasters, Big Lake Baptist Church has developed and grown. They have experienced regional population growth, road construction, economic recessions and pandemics, yet continue to thrive. In spite of devastating area wildfires (Miller's Reach in 1996 and Sockeye in 1914) and the 7.1 earthquake on November 30, 2018, Big Lake Baptist Church has remained strong.

From 2013 until 2015, the members of the congregation experienced a period of reflection and re-examination of short-term and long-term goals. Through a series of interim pastors and the assistance of a transitional pastor, they were able to re-focus their priorities, necessitating "thinking outside the box."

Most recently, as a result of the Covid-19 global pandemic of 2020, the church was forced to cancel services for several weeks. Pastor Paul Folk prepared and presented Sunday and Wednesday weekly sermons through social media. When the congregation was allowed to meet again, a highly modified schedule and format was utilized.

Pastoral Changes:

Multiple bi-vocational pastors served at Big Lake Baptist Mission from 1956 through 1977.

- Jerry (Connie) Pinkerton served from 1977 until his retirement in 2003.
- Dawson (Yvonne) Lindblom, Matt (Stephanie) Friese and Nick (Kim) Wahl, all of whom surrendered to the ministry under Pastor Jerry, served between his retirement in 2003 and the calling of Pastor Brad Whitworth in 2007.
- Brad (Sue) Whitworth served from 2007 until the end of 2013. Pastor Whitworth transitioned to being full-time about six months into his service at BLBC.
- In 2013 and 2014 interim pastors served (again including Pastor Lindblom) until the decision was made to call Pastor Jim Poorboy as Transitional Pastor who led BLBC through a period of reflection and refocusing of priorities.
- Paul (Corey) Folk was called to be full-time pastor in November 2015 and is currently serving in that position.



New building in progress, July 2020

Bodenburg Butte Baptist Church

Palmer, Alaska

Date Begun: August 1961

Date Constituted: February 1965, February 1988;
reconstituted January 16, 1992

Sponsoring Churches: First Baptist Church, Anchorage;

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

First Baptist Church, Palmer

Rural Mission

A rural mission located in the Butte Community near Palmer was begun in August 1961 and organized into a church on February 26, 1965. Three military men served the Butte Mission from 1962-1966: Earl Lamn, Elmore Bunch and John Booth. Charles Crutchfield served as interim pastor until Fred Bennett (Vita) was called in 1973; he served until 1981.

Church Disbanded - Mission Reopened

In 1981, Bodenburg Butte Baptist Church disbanded and deeded the property to First Baptist Church, Palmer. In the summer of 1982, First Baptist Church, Palmer, reopened the mission with Richard Demby as pastor. Richard Demby resigned to go back to school and Gary Lemmon (Kathy) was called and served through July 1983.

Bodenburg Butte Baptist Church

Paul Wells (Sharon) came to Bodenburg Butte as bi-vocational pastor in July, 1983. Later, Brother Wells was called to pastor Sutton Mission and eventually served each mission half-time. During his pastorate, the building was completely remodeled and enlarged. An empty building on the property was renovated and made into a home for the Wells until they purchased a home. A pavilion was built on the grounds for picnics and other outdoor functions. Bodenburg Butte Baptist Church was constituted February, 1988. Don Ashley, who had come as bi-vocational Religious Education Director, was ordained to the gospel ministry on February 16, 1992.

Church Growth and Ministry

Jerry Minchew (Vickie) came as pastor in June 1992, following the resignation of Paul Wells in December 1991. With the arrival of the Minchews and their two children, Ginger and Dean, the church took full responsibility for their support and discontinued pastoral assistance from Home Mission Board/Alaska Baptist Convention. Jerry and Vickie held bi-vocational jobs with the Butte Contract Postal, Alaska Motor Doctor and McDonalds.

The church acquired a portable baptistry in November, 1992. A year later, David Hebert, the first person who had been baptized in the new baptistry, built and donated a new church sign. David also built and donated a beautiful new pulpit and communion table. A new lighting system was donated by the Rodriguez family and installed by Mike Rodriguez. New molding was donated by the Courson family. First Baptist Church, Valdez, donated pews, and members of Butte installed them during a workday.

Jerry Minchew resigned effective April 1996 to attend New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. During his ministry, there were 18 baptisms, 14 additions by letter and two by statement.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Jim Morris succeeded Jerry Minchew as pastor in 1997 and ministered for about three years. Jim influenced the church in prayer, Bible study, and encouraging other believers. Jim felt the Lord called him to move out of the state in the year 2000.

In 2000, the church called Jerry Burton. Jerry's ministry emphasized the growth and development of young people. He spent much time training youth and teaching the word of God. Jerry ministered at the church until 2008.

Then the church called Glenn (Nancy) Little in early in 2009 and he pastored until June 2015. The church grew bountifully under his leadership. His ministry focus was on older adults, but he was well loved by all. Glenn resigned to take care of his beloved wife.

The church called David Wheeler in 2016. David was a man who encouraged everyone in the Lord. He ministered to young and old alike. David never met a stranger; he was a friend to everyone. After a year, David felt that God called him back to minister in his home church in Porterdale, Georgia, and left Alaska in 2017.

Bill Lightener ministered for a short time in the summer of 2017.

In April, 2018, the church called the current pastors; Myron Severson, Robert Nelson and Mitch Senior. As a team, they are trying to reach the Butte community with the gospel. They love the people and want them to surrender their lives to God.

The summer of 2018 a mission team came to Bodenburg Butte to do VBS, Game On! They also built a storage shed for the church.



Pastor team 2021: Myron Severson, Robert Nelson, Mitch Senior

Calvary Baptist Church

Anchorage, Alaska

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Date Begun: November 2, 1947

Date Constituted: February 18, 1948; reconstituted April 6, 1989

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Anchorage

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Government Hill Mission

Calvary Baptist Church began as a mission of the First Baptist Church, Anchorage, on November 2, 1947, and was known as the Government Hill Mission. It began with thirty-nine people who met in a quonset hut on the property where the present educational building stands.

Government Hill Baptist Church

The new mission organized as a church on February 18, 1948, and called Rev. Odell Lene as its first pastor. During the year of 1948, the church adopted a constitution, held its first revival, and sent messengers to the Alaska Baptist Convention.

Calvary Baptist Church

On August 17, 1949, the Government Hill Baptist Church changed its name to Calvary Baptist Church.



Circa 1949

Under the leadership of Rev. John DeFoore, who served the church as pastor from 1951-1956, the church leased the present piece of property from the Alaska Railroad. The church was able to purchase the property after a bill authorizing the purchase was passed by both Houses of Congress in June of 1952.

Volunteers Erect New Buildings

The purchase of the church property triggered spontaneous gifts which were used to start a building fund. By August of 1952, plans for the present auditorium were approved, and work began with volunteers laboring day and night often in sub-zero weather. The first service in the new building was held on Christmas Day 1953. The present educational building was started in April 1955. Again, it was members of Calvary Baptist Church who contributed large amounts of time and money for the construction.

Calvary's Pastors

In 1950, Dr. Arthur Hinson was appointed as Alaska's contact for the Home Mission Board and pastor of Calvary Baptist Church where he served for seven months. John DeFoore came to pastor Calvary under the same arrangement. Pastor DeFoore led Chugach Association in establishing new missions throughout Southcentral Alaska.

When Jack Turner (Carolyn) became Calvary Baptist Church, Anchorage

Calvary's third pastor in 1956, they moved into the newly purchased parsonage in the Turnagain area. Under Brother Turner's leadership, the church completed the educational building, and grew in Sunday School attendance and in all other programs.

Rev. John Canning (Charlotte) became pastor in 1961. Under his leadership the church grew to the highest numerical level in its history reaching 500 in Sunday School. The church continued expanding its space to meet the needs of a growing and exciting church. In 1962, the church relocated its parsonage just down the street from the church building.

After John Canning's death in 1966, Rev. William H. Hansen, who was serving as Executive Secretary of the Alaska Baptist Convention, became interim pastor, and served between June 1966 and December 1970. E.C. Chron, associational missionary, was interim until S.W. Valentine was called. During Valentine's pastorate, the church sold some property and paid off the mortgage on the church building and parsonage. Bro. Valentine retired in March of 1976. Dr. J. Troy Prince served as interim pastor until Rev. Paul C. Green was called and arrived on the field in August 1976. Paul Greene resigned in May 1982 and Rev. Billy Webb served from September 1982 until December 1983.

Again Calvary was without a pastor from January 1984 until Rev. Larry Tapp was called as pastor in April of 1984. He served until June 1985. Lynn Spencer was ordained to the ministry and served the church as Minister of Music and Youth from 1983-1984. Following Bro. Tapp's resignation, Bro. Felton Griffin served as interim pastor until Rev. John McClung was called as pastor. Rev. John McClung served from October 1985 until July 1988. In September 1988, the church called Rev. Mike McKay as interim pastor. The church continued with the remodeling of the kitchen and the front part of the sanctuary. Brother McKay continued as interim until January 1990 when the church extended a call to Timothy Huffman who arrived in February 1990. Rev. Douglas Arendsee came as pastor in May 1992 and served through December 1995. Bro. Mike McKay is again serving Calvary as interim pastor.

Calvary's Daring Youth Adventure

During Paul Green's pastorate, the church grew and felt the need to call a full-time Minister of Music and Youth. Jeff Champion came in February 1980. In the summer of 1981, he took 30 youth and eight counselors on a history-making, memorable bus trip to Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly in North Carolina to attend Youth Week. This was the first time any church from Alaska had attempted such a trip.

Calvary's Outreach Ministries

Under the leadership of Pastor John DeFoore, Calvary sponsored two missions, the Valdez Mission in 1952 and

the Seward Mission in 1953.

In January 1964, the Chugach Baptist Association opened an English and Citizenship School at Calvary. For the next seven years, Calvary provided leadership, space and support to this ministry to



Calvary Baptist Church; Anchorage (cont.)

internationals. In 1989 when the school celebrated its 25th anniversary, the first service of the celebration was held at Calvary and one of Calvary's own English teachers, Gayle Leininger, now SBC national literacy missionary, was guest speaker for the evening.

In 1982, under Pastor Billy Webb's leadership, Calvary started the first "In-House Mission" in Richardson Vista Housing Project. It was called Calvary Vista Mission and Howard L. Kotter served as pastor from November 1983 until August 1984. Brother Webb also started a Bible Correspondence course in the Cook Inlet Prison.

During Brother Timothy Huffingham's ministry, Calvary was opened for a Christian Seaman's Ministry led by Joe and Jeannette Seale.

Calvary sponsored Whittier Baptist Mission from June 1993 until it was constituted as a church in 1996. Immediately, Calvary voted to sponsor the new Baptist ministry in Barrow begun by Bob and Donna Shaw.

Future Challenge

Today Calvary is continuing to follow the vision that its early members had in reaching and ministering to the city of Anchorage. The present members are thankful for the work and dedication of Calvary's fourteen pastors and thousands of members throughout its almost 50 years. The future is challenging but "because He lives, Calvary can face tomorrow."

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Calvary Baptist Church has endorsed numerous young men and women to full time mission service. Some have retired now from their mission assignments, others are still active in their calling.

In September 2006, the church called William (Kay) Hamilton as pastor. The church has done a lot of mission work with the homeless people through the Rescue Mission until the current COVID lockdown and hopes to return to this ministry soon.

Since 2009 Calvary has had a partnership with GraceWorks Alaska Missions. Calvary Baptist Church has been Base Camp for GraceWorks Alaska Missions for over 10 years. Calvary Baptist and GraceWorks have maintained a healthy partnership that has blessed both parties. Over the years, GraceWorks has maintained and upgraded Calvary's building in many ways, including installing an outstanding commercial kitchen. Together, GraceWorks and Calvary have hosted thousands of mission volunteers who have engaged thousands of Alaskans in gospel conversations. Every year, many are won to Christ. Furthermore, many Calvary members actively serve with GraceWorks in ministry. Through this Partnership, Calvary Baptist is having one of the greatest mission impacts of any church in Alaska.

Today Calvary is continuing to follow the vision of its early members in reaching out and ministering to Anchorage. The vision remains the spread of the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout Anchorage. During the summer on a Tuesday Evening you will find church members and GraceWorks folks in the Richardson Vista Park, serving chips, hot dogs, and kool-aide to families and children and bringing Bible truths to all who will listen.

Christ Community Church Anchorage, Alaska

Date Begun: September 2003

Date Constituted: October 3, 2003

Sponsoring Church:

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Christ Community Church, Alaska was founded in September of 2003 and officially constituted on October 3rd, 2003. The beginnings of C3AK are found in the long histories of Jewel Lake Baptist Church and South Anchorage Baptist Church.

Over the years, Jewel Lake Baptist, which had been constituted in September of 1967, had seen several pastors and more than a few name changes which included Raspberry Road Baptist Church, The Church on Raspberry Road and finally Anchorage Quality Life Center (AQLC). In 2003, Pat (Gayle) Hadley had been the pastor for several years. In 1998, he was joined on staff by Tracy (Karen) Simmons as teaching pastor and worship leader, Jason (Michelle) Souza as student pastor, and Charles (Janet) Simmons as pastoral advisor and teaching pastor. At the time, AQLC was meeting in the Wilda Marston Theatre at the Loussac Library after the transfer of the building on Raspberry Road to Filipino Bible Church and a brief residency at Mears Middle School. AQLC moved to a rental space at the corner of Tudor Road and Seward Highway in 2000 and remained there until spring of 2003 when they moved to the South Anchorage Baptist Church building. At the time of the move, Tracy Simmons was serving as lead pastor of AQLC,

as well as leading the worship team, Pat Hadley served as a teaching pastor, and Jason Souza as the student pastor.

South Anchorage Baptist Church (SABC) was located at the corner of Victor and 100th Avenue in South Anchorage, and began as a mission of First Baptist Church, Anchorage, in September of 1982. It was originally called Bayshore Baptist Mission, and met at Bayshore Elementary School. Immediately after formation, the congregation began searching for land suitable for a permanent home for the church. After months of searching and praying, a five-acre



site at the corner of Victor Road and 100th Avenue was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Kelm, whose generosity made the purchase possible. First Baptist Church of Anchorage, Second Baptist Church of Houston, Texas, and the mission congregation raised \$125,000 for the down payment on the land. The purchase price was \$750,000. First Baptist Church, Anchorage, negotiated a \$350,000 construction loan and on May 29, 1985, construction began on a 10,000 square-foot building that would become the home of South Anchorage Baptist Church.

The first service was held in the building on September 29, 1985. SABC was constituted on November 12, 1985. Morris Wall served as pastor until his retirement September 25, 1988. He was followed by Jim (Sherri) Murphy in 1989. Doyle (Arlee) Searcy was called as the third pastor of SABC in the fall of 1993 and served until March of 1996. There was not another full-time pastor until June of 1999 when Jay Sample was called to the church. Interim pastors included Mike Procter, Fred Bennett, and Leonard Everman.

In 2000, the pastors of AQLC met and became fast friends with Jay (Nancy) Sample who was the pastor of SABC which was struggling greatly after the absence of a lead pastor in the previous years. Over the course of the next two years, as the friendship grew between Jay and AQLC leadership, it became evident that God was leading in the direction of a new work which would come out of the ministries of SABC and AQLC.

In the fall of 2002, the two churches held exploratory meetings and began to discuss the possibility of consolidating the two bodies. SABC was in desperate need of human and financial resources as they labored under the remaining debt of the mortgage on the property and AQLC was a growing church needing space to meet. The initial idea was for AQLC to become an additional resident of the space on 100th Avenue, sharing the facility and resources. However, the vision of Jay Sample provided motivation for the two congregations to consolidate, believing God wanted a more complete union that would be accomplished through consolidation.

The two churches met together Easter Sunday, April 20th, 2003, which was several months earlier than had been proposed to the congregations. The space which AQLC had been using experienced a flood from the upper floors of the building the day before Good Friday and all of their chairs were completely soaked and the space would not be usable for Easter Sunday. In what is considered by the church to be a work of God, none of the electronics, sound equipment, instruments, or even the piano were damaged by the water raining down in the AQLC worship space. After a phone call from Tracy Simmons to Pastor Jay Sample to request the use of the SABC auditorium for services Easter Sunday afternoon, Pastor Sample asked that the churches simply meet together for Easter services. The churches met together from that Sunday on, until the new church was constituted.

In a first for the state of Alaska, SABC and AQLC decided not to merge, but rather to consolidate. This legal process results in the closure of two or more entities and the establishment of a brand new entity. In this case, the new entity was named Christ Community Church, Alaska. The church began with a combined lay leadership board made up of members from both previous congregations. The church was founded with a plurality of pastoral leadership, with the five original pastors sharing the teaching responsibilities on Sunday mornings, as well as cross-serving in different areas of emphasis such as worship ministry, student ministry, and administration. From the beginning C3AK established itself as a church for marginalized and those who considered themselves without a place in the church at large.

Some early efforts included being the first evangelical church to partner directly with the Alaskan Aids Assistance Association and opening the building of C3AK as an incubator for church starts and church plants which saw the partnership of a number of Anglo, Korean, and African American congregations over the years. Highlights from that season of ministry included cooperative neighborhood ministry and joint worship services with their sister congregations and churches.

Today, Pastor Tracy Simmons still serves the congregation as Lead Pastor and Jason Souza still serves as the Family Ministry and Teaching Pastor. Dr. Charles Simmons (87 years old) is still a member and is sometimes invited to preach for the congregation. Pastor Tyler (Carrie) Canup was ordained by C3AK in 2015 after the church called him as the full-time Worship Pastor. He and his wife, Carrie, now serve as the directors of LaVerne Griffin Camp in Wasilla, Alaska.

A number of men have been ordained to the gospel ministry through C3AK, including one of their elders, Don (Marilyn) Rabb who was a member of SABC and is a regular minister at the Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission.

Recent years have seen a renewed emphasis on community ministry through a partnership with GraceWorks Ministries. Also, with significant help from Alaska Baptists, C3AK has been able to fulfill its mission to reach into the performing arts community of Anchorage, hosting community events, theatrical performances, rehearsals, and meetings for a number of local arts organizations. This has resulted in the Lord rescuing a number of people with the salvation of Christ directly related to these relationships, as well as increasing

the presence of C3AK in the community at large.

Lead Pastor Tracy Simmons is the immediate past President of the Alaska Baptist Resource Network.



Clearwater Baptist Church

Delta Junction, Alaska

Date Begun: 1964

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Delta Junction

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

In the spring of 1964, approximately 35 families were living in the farming area of Clearwater and they requested First Baptist Church, Delta, to start a mission. Vacation Bible School was held in the summer of 1964 with 22 attending. During the fall, services were held on Saturdays with four Bible study groups. Paul Spriggs donated a two-acre site in the Clearwater area, and a quonset hut was purchased and used as the church building. Approximately 65 people attended the dedication service. Harold Rhodes, an Alaska Communications Systems employee, became the first pastor of Clearwater. When First Delta, called Harold Rhodes to become pastor, Clearwater was left pastorless. The Clearwater Mission closed in the winter of 1965. It was not reopened until January 11, 1984, when the church voted to once again establish a mission in the Clearwater area and to build a mission building.



UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Last September Glen (Kathy) Cotten celebrated his 25th year at Clearwater. In September of 1995 he was called to pastor what was then Clearwater Baptist Mission. Glen, Kathy and their three children moved to Delta Junction and began serving as pastor to a congregation of about twelve people. Glen was bi-vocational, working as a meat cutter at the local grocery store. Through the years the focus was on preaching and teaching God's Word and equipping the saints for the work. Clearwater Community Church did not focus on church growth but trusted His word in Mathew 16:18: "Upon this rock I will build My church". Believing their job is to faithfully teach and preach the Word and leave the growth to Him, they have seen God prove Himself faithful. Through the years, the church has steadily grown as the Lord added to His church. Through the faithful giving of the congregation and the generous help of First Baptist Church, Delta Junction, Clearwater Baptist Church became debt free around 2005, and then constituted from a mission into a church. As time has passed the church has remained focused on the importance of exegetical preaching and obedience to Scripture. God's word has not returned void! Through the years God has used and blessed Clearwater as they minister to the people of Delta Junction. By about 2011, the church grew enough to ask Pastor Cotton to become full-time. There is an AWANA program that grows children in God's Word and ministers to an average of 85 children and 16 teens each Sunday. Clearwater has an average attendance of 175, added a 52 by 52 addition to the building built with our own hands, has stayed debt free, supports the Carenet Pregnancy Center in Fairbanks and ministers when and how they are able around the state. Ministering in rural Alaska definitely requires the ability to improvise, adapt and overcome. Clearwater Baptist Church cannot thank God enough for His faithfulness and blessing through the years as they have sought to serve Him.

Cliffside Community Chapel

Anchorage, Alaska

Date Constituted: December 15, 1997

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

The current pastor is Steven (Lori) Chronister.

Coffman Cove Community Baptist Church

Coffman Cove, Alaska

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Date Begun: 1971

Date Constituted: November 13, 1996

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Petersburg

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Coffman Cove Mission.

In 1971, First Baptist Church, Petersburg, was invited to begin Sunday School and preaching services at Coffman Cove Logging Camp. This ministry, led by Pastor Earl Midkiff, was begun June 4, 1972, on an every-other-week basis. Valentine Log Company donated an old trailer house for Sunday School. Transportation off Prince of Wales Island was and is by float plane or by boat.

Coffman Cove was officially organized as a Baptist Mission on April 23, 1989, under the sponsorship of First Baptist Church, Petersburg, in this logging camp and small community of about 300 people. A two-story building was erected. Tom Nunley (Kay) is now pastor of this congregation of about 40-50 people who participate in Sunday School, morning and evening worship and Wednesday evening Bible study.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

July 12, 1995: Pastor Tom Nunley expressed a vision for the church building to be completed, three deacons in place and incorporated into a fully independent church.

June 1996: Coffman Cove became the first constituted Southern Baptist Church on Prince of Wales Island.

The Blankenship families, Earl Midkiff and Greg White were given praise for their vision by director of missions at that time, Lewis (Alma) McClendon.

June 2, 1996: Resolution from the First Baptist Church in Petersburg to the Coffman Cove Baptist Mission.

June 23, 1996: Coffman Cove Baptist Mission incorporated into Coffman Cove Community Baptist Church.

March 18, 1997: business meeting: Mike Ashe became assistant pastor by suggestion of Pastor Tom Nunley. Randy Wright, Joe Stecklein and Bill Shingleton were all voted in as deacons at this meeting also.

January 30, 2001: Land was deeded from First Baptist Church of Petersburg to Coffman Cove Community Baptist Church.

Record of Ministers

- Ralph Dean Blankenship called from First Baptist of Forks WA; April 23, 1989 to June 9, 1991
- Kenneth Lee Blankenship called from First Baptist of Forks WA; April 23, 1989 to June 9, 1991
- Ed Gregg called from Castel Hills First Baptist, Texas; June 1, 1991 to unknown date
- Thomas (Kay) Nunley called from Luxley Alabama; September 1, 1993 to May 18, 1997
- Bob (Rhonda) Farley First Baptist, Ketchikan; May 25, 1997 to November 20, 1998
- Thomas (Kay) Nunley North Tongass Baptist, Ketchikan; July 11, 1999 to March, 2001
- Keith (Cheryl) Webb Craig Baptist Church; April 4, 2001 to January 22, 2017
- Interim, Jerrod (Melissa) Clark; January 22, 2017 to September 17, 2017
- Jerrod (Melissa) Clark, Coffman Baptist Church; September 17, 2017 to October 2018
- Jason (Angii) Wakefield called from Whale Pass Church; October 27, 2019 to present

Deacons:

- Gary Soderberg
- Willy Johnson
- Bill Shingleton
- Randy Wright

Cold Bay Chapel

Cold Bay, Alaska

Date Begun: 1976

Date Constituted: November 12, 1996; reconstituted April 16, 2008

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Anchorage (1976-1985);

Chugach Baptist Association (1993-?)

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Military Roots

Cold Bay Chapel traces its roots back to a U.S. Army Chaplain, Captain William J. Reiss, who served in Cold Bay in 1942. With the

closing of the Air Force Base in January 1950, the military presence ended at Cold Bay. There is no information on the pastorate or denominational support for the Cold Bay Chapel from the Post-World War II years until 1971. Two pastor/missionary families with Slavic

Gospel Association served from 1971-75. The Cold Bay Chapel functioned without a pastor for approximately one year.

Cold Bay Chapel is located on leased property owned by the State of Alaska, Department of Transportation. Facilities consist of the approximately 54-year-old quonset hut serving as the sanctuary. A small attached Sunday School room used in the 1970s was increased to a three-room facility in 1984 through a donation of materials from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The parsonage is a three-bedroom mobile home.

Alaska Baptists Pastor/Missionaries

In 1976, First Baptist Church, Anchorage, began a 10 year relationship with the Cold Bay Chapel. Ira Alley (Memory) served the Chapel as pastor/missionary from 1976-79. Jerry Sturgell (Daphne, daughter Laura) was pastor from 1979-81. Ed Greig (Janelle) served from 1981-

83 and Jerry Taylor (Bonnie, daughters Angie, Nancy and Melanie) served as pastor/missionary from 1983-85.

From 1985-92, Arctic Missions (InterAct Ministries) supported two mission pastor/missionaries at the Cold Bay Chapel.

The Chugach Baptist Association has provided guidance since 1993 by helping in locating pastor/missionaries and in other ways through their missions program directed by Mike Procter. Don Cauble (Falby) was interim pastor/missionary serving 1993-94. Mel Bartreau (Verne) is presently serving as pastor/missionary of Cold Bay Chapel, having come in 1994.



Quonset hut, early meeting place of Cold Bay Chapel

Average attendance over the past 15 years has been approximately 15 adults and 20 children. Services include Sunday morning and evening sermons, Sunday School classes for all ages, Wednesday evening prayer meeting, men's and women's Bible studies and youth fellowship. Special programs are held at Easter and Christmas and the Chapel has also hosted community fellowship events.

False Pass Outreach

During 1995 special encouragement and support was provided to believers in False Pass where there was no church. Through Sunday School classes and Bible studies conducted by the Cold Bay Chapel's pastor and wife, the Lord brought growth and encouragement to this group. The Lord led John Baynes to serve the False Pass Fellowship and he arrived Dec. 15, 1995. The Cold Bay Chapel had prayed for years that the Lord would find a place in the hearts of the people of False Pass and Nelson Lagoon where no churches exist. To see the Lord opening doors in these villages is an encouraging answer to prayer for the Cold Bay Fellowship.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

John Jemar served as Pastor from 2000-2004

Mel Bartreau, Hugh Long, Mony Chitty and Josh Kremer have served varying tenures since then.

Currently Jae McKee is serving as pastor. The church has been reconstituted and meeting in the parsonage for two years. Average attendance in-person and online is 20-24 people per week.

College Heights Baptist Church

Soldotna, Alaska

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Date Begun: October 1985

Date Constituted: July 2, 1986

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Soldotna

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Home Bible Study

In March, 1982, Fred Parnell began holding a home Bible study in the College Heights area of Soldotna. The first public evening worship service was held at the Burton Carver Building in October 1985. In April 1986, Sunday morning worship service was moved to Cook Inlet Academy; Sunday School and evening worship were begun and met there too. Wednesday night services were held in homes.

College Heights Baptist Church

On March 19, 1986, College Heights Baptist Church was constituted with 15 charter members. Fred Parnell was called as pastor. In 1988, College Heights church purchased the Conservative Church building with option to buy land. Once the church had a permanent meeting place, it began growing and stabilizing. Trailers were moved on to the property to provide additional space.

Bill Brown was called as College Heights' second pastor in June 1990. A building program began in 1991 with the preparation of the building site for construction to begin on the new building in 1992. Work teams came from Alabama, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, and three crews came from First Baptist Church, Summit, Mississippi, and a Campers on Mission crew. The new church building was dedicated on December 26, 1993.

Missions Ministries

Mission Friends organization for preschoolers was begun by Sandy Parnell in 1987. GAs and RAs began for girls and boys in 1992. All three mission groups have been actively involved

in mission projects such as "a mitten tree" for Nome. GAs and RAs participated in the "I Can Help Hunger Project." The GAs planned a Missions Fair at Moose Pass Mission for the association. There are 12 women involved in Women on Mission. The church has hosted 13 guest missionary visitors to the church.

The church has provided ongoing ministries to help feed the cannery workers and provide food for other needy persons in the community for the past five years.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

College Heights Baptist Church has seen God's faithfulness in abundance during the past 25 years. The church is thankful for His providence as they seek to honor Him in the next 25!

The church home in Soldotna has grown from a sanctuary and a double-wide trailer to a complete building with a fellowship hall, many classrooms, and an office wing. The Lord provided funding to purchase adjoining land and it has been developed into a sledding hill, playground, pavilion, and family activity area.

Many lives have been changed through small groups which serve over 150 members, children and family ministries, and community outreach. A few projects include VBS, Back To Bethlehem, and the GO Ministry where small groups use the slide, bounce house, and grill to serve local neighborhoods.

Scott Coffman has lead College Heights Baptist Church as senior pastor since 1996, with Greg Crawford as associate pastor since 2011. Tim Bruno served as associate pastor from 2007 - 2015 and Jonah Huckaby has served as student pastor for five years.

It has been a blessing to see God at work in this church, community, and state during the past 25 years. We look forward to see the

growth and transformation that the next 25 years will bring.



Cottonwood Creek Cowboy Church

Wasilla, Alaska

Sponsoring Church: Fairview Loop Baptist Church

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Cottonwood Creek Cowboy Church has been meeting since before 2007. The current pastor is Dale Harvey, and he was preceded by Tim Avritt. The church meets Sunday afternoons in the Fairview Loop Baptist Church building in Wasilla.

Cross Roads Baptist Church

North Pole, Alaska

Date Begun: June 1980

Date Constituted: August 17, 1983

Sponsoring Churches: Moose Creek Baptist Church and
First Baptist Church, North Pole

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Sister Churches Share Sponsorship

On Easter Sunday, 1980, groups from both Moose Creek Baptist Church and First Baptist Church, North Pole, gathered at a site along Badger Road with one shared vision of establishing a Southern Baptist witness in the Badger Road area, one of the fastest growing areas in the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

In the summer of 1980, John and Jill Copeland, Southern Seminary student summer missionaries, began holding services in an unfinished home across from the present church site. At the end of the summer, Mike Hicks was called as mission pastor. During that time, the sponsoring churches purchased five acres of land at the corner ("crossroads") of Badger and Holmes Roads. The mission was officially constituted as a church on June 10, 1981, and Mike Hicks was called as the first pastor.

Church Growth and Building Expansion

Construction was begun on the first building unit in the summer of 1981. A work crew from California Baptist Men, led by Ed Brown, came in August 1981 to help get the building closed in before winter. Utilization of the building was implemented in stages, and by 1985 the entire building was being utilized. One unique component of the building's design was the incorporation of a multipurpose gymnasium, which could be utilized for fellowship, worship, or gym sports by the members of the congregation. Under the leadership of Pastor Hicks, the congregation grew to a membership near 100 with an average Sunday School attendance of 40. In the spring of 1988, Pastor Hicks felt God's leadership in accepting a pastorate of a church in Canada, and the church was left without a pastor for a period of a little over a year.

In the fall of 1989, the church called Dan Derozier as their pastor and the church began another period of growth. Attendance averaged near 100 in worship, and the church was quickly running out of educational space. The congregation began to have a vision for added educational space. However, in the spring of 1991, due to heavy military rotation and other job changes, nearly half of the church's active members moved out of state. Shortly after this, Pastor Derozier felt led to return to the Lower 48, and once again the church was without pastoral leadership; worship attendance dropped

to under 50.

During the following year, without a pastor, the church began a period of slow growth. In 1992, the church called Gary Thomas as pastor. The Lord blessed during the tenure of Pastor Thomas. The much needed educational wing was built giving the church ten additional classrooms, a spacious nursery and more toilet/shower facilities. For the first time, Sunday School attendance began to average near 100 and worship attendance averaged 180. A portable baptistry was built giving the church the ability to use on-sight facilities for baptismal services. The church members sponsored five work crews from the Lower 48 to help with the new wing. The educational wing was dedicated April 30, 1995, during an outdoor special dedication service.

US-2 Missionaries

In 1993, US-2 Missionaries Paul and Kalonni Porter were invited to serve two years with the Cross Roads Church. Under their leadership, Cross Road's youth attendance doubled when a weekly youth night was begun. The weekly youth night continues and now the average attendance is about 30. The Cross Roads Youth went on a very successful mission trip to Juneau in June 1995 where they led in Back-Yard Bible Clubs.

Paul and Kalonni also ministered to college students, singles and young marrieds. Two new Sunday School classes began as well as a bus ministry to the college students. The Porters completed their two year assignment in July 1995 and entered New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Missions Outreach

The Cross Roads Baptist Church has always had an emphasis on missions from its earliest days and has consistently been one of the top churches in giving to the special mission offerings of the Southern Baptist Convention. The church gives 10 percent of its undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program as well as giving another 3 percent to associational missions causes. Women on Mission provides a strong, energetic service to support the needs of the community. Cross Roads also has a food closet to help those less fortunate, and the church has also opened up its facilities to various community organizations in order to reach out to the North Pole/Badger Road community.

Pastorless Again

In the Spring of 1995, Pastor Thomas felt God calling him to resign and return to his home state of Missouri. Because of his obedience, God continues blessing Cross Roads. The church has received sixteen new members and continues growing. The church is seeking God's leadership and guidance in their search for a new pastor. The

current church membership is 253. This dedicated fellowship looks forward to filling up their new facility and in the near future to be able to expand their facilities in order to more effectively reach the community for Christ.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

After several months of prayer and searching, Cross Roads Baptist Church (CRBC) called Pastor Troy Gourley as their Pastor in November of 1996. He had been Pastor of Lakeview Baptist Church in Silver Springs, Nevada for twelve years. Pastor Troy, along with his wife Denise and daughter Andrea, traveled up the Alcan in the dead of winter. It was the beginning of a new adventure for them.

In the twenty-five years that Pastor Troy has served CRBC, many upgrades have been accomplished. A lighted outside sign was donated by a group of North Carolina Baptists. The church has been painted inside and out several times; a new sound system was installed along with an interactive screen to assist in worship. New chairs, new hymnals, new piano, new carpet throughout the church and a new security system are some the newest additions to CRBC. A new boiler designed to be more economic was a welcome addition along with a new well. A complete septic system including a tank and new leach field were installed. The parking lot was graded and graveled to lend easy access to the entrances. A cement walkway connects all entrances and provides easy access to and from the handicap ramp outside. CRBC was re-roofed about five years ago.

Although the upgrades to the building are important, the real reason for CRBC is not forgotten. CRBC conducts VBS, CRBC has also taken VBS to Nenana and Anderson. A work crew was sent to Kobuk to complete the parsonage. While the crew was there, they utilized the famous midnight sun to have a basketball clinic for the youth of Kobuk and Shungnak. One of the most promising ministries is the "Fishers of Men" fishing tournament every summer. It is designed to bring people that are not involved in church into a

friendly competition with Christians. Attendance has grown every year. Trophies and prizes are awarded for the largest fish caught. CRBC partners in this with Tanana Valley Baptist Association to reach out to the local community. Another successful ministry is the "Autumn Carnival". It is an alternative to Halloween. Games, prizes, and food are enjoyed by all.

Women On Mission (WOM) sponsors a different mission project every month. Military boxes sent to the troops and baby supplies sent to the crisis pregnancy center are just two of the many places supported. WOM leads in setting church goals for the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings. They also help focus on Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Every year the church is challenged to do more boxes than the year before.

The men's ministry recently hosted a breakfast for the men of the church and CRBC is looking forward to what God has in store for this ministry.

Along with Associational and Cooperative Program giving, CRBC supports one the few circuit rider ministries that still exists by giving financial help to reach some very small communities in rural Nevada which are too small to support a church. CRBC also helps to support a foreign missionary in Malaysia. This missionary was a member of CRBC before he was called to missions.

In the last 25 years of CRBC ministry, two men have surrendered to full-time ministry. They are both in the Lower 48 pursuing minis-

try opportunities.

COVID-19 has been both a blessing and burden. It is a blessing because it seems that more non-Christians are open to hearing the gospel than ever before. CRBC has had the privilege of baptizing two people because of COVID-19. It is a burden because the church body has sacrificed closeness and hugs for relative safety. CRBC first ministered through video sermons posted to their website. After the second month, they began live-streaming morning services. They are able to adjust the chairs in the sanctuary to meet safety protocols. They have restarted Sunday School for all ages followed by worship service.

A search committee has been formed to find a Youth Pastor/Music Leader to help reach the younger people.

CRBC continues to offer opportunities of ministry and Biblical expository preaching.



CrossCountry Church

Wasilla, Alaska

Date Begun:

Date Constituted: June 2, 2008

Sponsoring Church:

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

In July of 2006 Mike Balos, his wife Angela, and their 6 year old son, Michael, moved from Chickamauga, Georgia, to Alaska in answer to the call of God. At the invitation of the Hatcher Pass Baptist Association, with financial support from the SBC's Cooperative Program, and significant support from their home church in Georgia they began a church plant in the Mat-Su Valley.

The Balos family started a home Bible study in Palmer and some of that group became the core for what would become CrossCountry Church (CCC). The new church had its first worship service on June 10, 2007, at the Mat-Su Cinema building in Wasilla. The church was able to enlist personnel to lead in worship, administration, and missions. Two pastors, Gary Bearce and Dr. Samuel Abbate, were called to serve alongside Pastor Mike.

A growing church family met in the Cinema and began looking for a place to meet between Palmer and Wasilla. The Cinema itself went bankrupt in 2010 but the bank asked the church to remain in the building until it could be sold. Although it was a very visible location for a new work, the 2.4-million-dollar sale price was too costly for a new church, so a rental arrangement went on for the next several years.

Finally, church leadership found a genuinely nice seven-acre piece of land with a farmhouse and barn at 7010 E. Fireweed Road near the Mat-Su Hospital and rented the property as the pastor's home. Again, the price was too high for a church plant, but the location was within the original target location the church had envisioned eight years earlier. The body began to pray, and God provided several miracles.

From the beginning CCC had a vision for making disciples and doing Great Commission ministry/missions. Celebrate Recovery (CR), a Christ-Centered, twelve-step program for anyone struggling

with hurts, pain, or addiction of any kind was a significant part of that vision. This ministry needed a weeknight place to meet and in the summer of 2018 Pastor Mike Balos and Pastor Rodney Kovty-novich of the Schrock Road Community Church arranged for Cross-Country's CR small groups and celebration to use their location. God rewarded their desire to help the hurting with key leadership, numerical growth, and places to meet. Schrock Road Community Church and CCC were both members of the Hatcher Pass Baptist Association. Soon, Schrock Road Community Church offered their facility for the Sunday services for CCC. It was an exceedingly kind offer, but their facility was located about 14 miles from the hub of where the CrossCountry congregation had hoped to build. The CrossCountry congregation realized God was opening a big, big door for a multi-campus ministry and that they could enlarge their vision if the Fireweed property could be obtained for a future main campus.

On Labor Day weekend 2018, CCC began Sunday worship services at the Schrock facility and one week later began an early service at the Extreme Fun Center in Wasilla which was located closer to where the church hoped to build. Since that time CrossCountry has maintained the two Sunday morning worship services and the Thursday night Celebrate Recovery Worship Celebration.

CrossCountry Church absorbed the Schrock Church members and sadly, Pastor Rodney of the Schrock Congregation died of a heart attack on December 10, 2018. CrossCountry Church is continuing to do outreach at both campuses.

In April 2019, the church family was able to close on the Fireweed Campus. It currently houses the parsonage, church offices, meeting rooms and a barn. As part of CCC's mission commitment, part of the barn has been made available to Alaska Baptist Disaster Relief for storage of ministry vehicles and tools. In March 2020 founding Pastor Mike Balos resigned and returned to Maine to pastor a church there. CCC moves on in ministry and discipleship to honor God.

Dillingham Bible Fellowship

Dillingham, Alaska

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Date Begun: January 1999
Date Constituted: April 2, 2009

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

In October of 1998, Bruce and Gloria Landry alongside the Alaska Baptist Convention began praying and planning for the planting of a church in Dillingham. In January of 1999, they held their first meeting and began holding regular services in March of that same year. Over the next several years this group became increasingly aware of the Dillingham community's need for a gospel witness. It was also during this time that a desire to have a physical building in which to provide a meeting space for worship and discipleship was solidified. The church began appropriating resources and making plans towards that end. Bruce and Gloria were instrumental in God's initial plans for Dillingham Bible Fellowship. In 2003, Bruce Landry was called to pastor a church in Nome and Steve McNeal accepted a

call to shepherd Dillingham Bible Fellowship.

Steve and Bonnie McNeal arrived in Dillingham in September 2003. During the ensuing five years the congregation grew from 2 to more than 35. It was also during this time that the church purchased property on Cessna Drive and succeeded in raising a building. Steve and Bonnie were vital in their roles establishing and extending the ministry of Dillingham Bible Fellowship. In 2008, Steve accepted a call to help rebuild and reestablish a church in Venice, Louisiana. The following spring Robert Scott accepted a call to serve as pastor of Dillingham Bible

Fellowship.

In April 2009, Robert and Dana Scott arrived in Dillingham. The years following their arrival have witnessed continued growth in the congregation and facilities. In 2013, Dillingham Bible Fellowship completed its parsonage, and the building expansion was completed in October of 2018. Throughout the physical improvements the church has retained its focus on the community's

need of the gospel and the congregation continues to pray that God will use this church for His glory and the good of His people throughout the earth. Soli Deo Gloria.



Eagle River Korean Baptist Church

Eagle River, Alaska

Date Begun: October 11, 2001
Date Constituted: 2001

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

In addition to giving through the Cooperative Program, Eagle River Korean Baptist Church supports three churches in the Dominican Republic.

Pastors who have served the church are Joshua Suh, Hyo-Sung Lee, and the current pastor, Hong Rae Lee, who has served in that position since 2006. The church meets in the Valley View Baptist Church building in Eagle River.



Sunday worship



Worship service during the mission trip to the Dominican Republic

Emmanuel Baptist Church

Juneau, Alaska

Date Begun: August 17, 1982

Date Constituted: November 20, 1983; reconstituted March 15, 2016

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Ketchikan

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Juneau-Douglas Mission

The Emmanuel Baptist Church, Juneau, was started under the name of Juneau-Douglas Mission, because the permanent location of the new mission start had not been decided. The first meeting of the mission was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Petillo on August 17, 1982, with 58 people requesting to be held under the watchcare of First Baptist Church, Ketchikan, the sponsoring church. Lewis K. McClendon, Director of Missions for Tongass Association was asked to serve as interim pastor and services continued to be held in the Petillo home.

In October 1982, the mission began meeting at Marie Drake Junior High School. The land committee began looking for suitable land and the current site at 10490 Glacier Highway in Juneau was purchased for \$160,000 for the permanent location of the mission. An additional \$20,000 was spent remodeling the old garage on the property for a worship area; and a mobile home was prepared for Sunday School use.

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Juneau

Dr. Royce Christmas was called as the first pastor in July 1983; and on November 20, 1983, the mission was constituted as Emmanuel Baptist Church, Juneau. Dr. Christmas served the church until October 1985.

Other improvements have been made to the property including improving the parking areas, draining the muskeg swamp area in preparation for a new building, installing a new septic system and building a small nursery in the sanctuary building. The mobile home that sat in front of the church building was sold to make the church more visible from the highway.

The membership remains small, less than 25 families, but the Spirit abounds and has produced a loving family of God. The church has a great need for Sunday School classroom space. At present, the church

is using a "satellite" system in which Sunday School classes are held in various private homes.

The church has recently completed studies including: Christian Financial Management, Building Witnessing Relationships and Baptist Faith and Message. The church wants to grow and a sizable building fund has been amassed toward the goal of building a larger building.

Church Pastors

Emmanuel Baptist Church has changed pastors many times in its fourteen year history. Mike Allison, the present pastor, and his family moved to Juneau in July 1986 and he was a layman in the congregation. In 1992, when the pastor resigned, the church asked Mike to serve as supply pastor. Brother Allison worked hard and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit the church has more than survived. Brother Allison was licensed to the gospel ministry in December 1992, called as bi-vocational pastor in October 1994 and ordained in January 1995.

Other pastors who have served Emmanuel are: Gary Thomas, 1991-92; William Hamilton, 1988-1990; David Carpenter (Interim) 1987-1988; Bob Parker, 1986-1987; Royce Christmas, 1983-1985.

Tenekee Springs Preaching Point

Tenekee Springs is located about 50 miles northeast of Sitka on Chichagof Island and has a population of about 100. In addition to serving Emmanuel, Brother Allison travels by float plane or ferry to minister at Tenekee Spring, a preaching point sponsored by Emmanuel. The bi-weekly (weather permitting) Baptist service is held in the Catholic Chapel with about 15 in attendance. Schedules are sometimes tight, and Brother Allison has been known to get back in Juneau just in time to walk up to the pulpit and start preaching on Sunday morning clad in boots, blue jeans and a flannel shirt. Only in Alaska!

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Pastors who have served in the twenty-first century are Earl (Shanon) Midkiff, 2000-2007; Adam Gray, 2007-2010; Rich Clement, 2010-2011; Nathaniel Buck, 2011-2015; Todd Buck, 2016-2017; Markus Keeler, May to October 2017; Greg Weinert, 2018-present.

Fairbanks Korean Baptist Church

Fairbanks, Alaska

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Date Begun: October 8, 1989

Date Constituted: February 16, 2016

Sponsoring Church: Friendship Baptist Church, Fairbanks

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Beginning

The Korean Baptist Mission, Fairbanks, was initiated with four church members by Rev. Man Ki Min on October 8, 1989. Financial support was provided by Friendship Baptist Church, Tanana Valley Baptist Association, the Alaska Baptist Convention, and the following individuals: Rev. Ho Gil Kang, Danial Mun, Peter Hong, Jin Su Lee, Woo Bong Chang, Jong Kun Kim, Chang Ho Meang and Mrs. Sandra B. Koo.

Following the departure of Rev. Man Ki Min on January 12, 1993, Rev. Ho Joong Cho (Grace) arrived to begin serving the Korean Mission on February 16, 1993. The mission provides Sunday

School, Korean language school, adult Bible study and small group Bible study. The average Sunday attendance is 37 adults and 22 children with an enrollment of 40 adults and 25 children. Services are held on Sunday afternoons at Friendship. The Korean Mission looks forward to raising funds and building their own facility in the future.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Pastors who have served the church are Dong In Park, Ju Yong Jang, Hae Dwan Jung, and Seung Chan Lee. Eui Kyoong Ahn is presently the pastor and has served the church since 2013. Suejee Ko has served in a leadership position since 2016.

Fairbanks Korean Baptist Church is mainly focusing on delivering the gospel to military family members who are having strong tension, inter-marriage couples who have totally different cultural backgrounds, and single moms who suffer from loneliness.



Fairview Loop Baptist Church

Wasilla, Alaska

Date Begun: December 3, 1982

Date Constituted: November 29, 1989

Sponsoring Church: Faith Baptist Church, Anchorage

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Home Bible Study

The first meeting of what later became Fairview Loop Baptist Mission, was a home Bible study held in the living room of Leonard and Marsha Everman. This Bible study group grew and began meeting in Wasilla City Hall for Sunday School and worship and Wednesday night services.

Fairview Loop Baptist Mission

Faith Baptist Church, Anchorage, voted to sponsor this group and on the first Sunday in December 1982, Fairview Loop Baptist Mission was organized under Faith's sponsorship. The mission continued meeting in rented facilities until the first portable unit was constructed. On Easter Sunday 1983, the first service was held in the unfinished building on Fairview Loop. The second portable unit was built in 1984 providing for a nursery, Sunday School rooms and office space. A third portable Sunday School building was built in 1987 and the parking lot was upgraded. In 1988, the mission began a "By Faith We Grow" building fund for a permanent building in the future. A year later, a ladies trio called "JOY" was formed. This group excelled and was not only enjoyed at the mission and in Hatcher Pass Association, but they were invited to sing in other churches of the state as well as state meetings and as far away as the state of Washington.

Fairview Loop Baptist Church

Seven years from the date of its organization as a mission of Faith Baptist Church, Fairview Loop Baptist Church was constituted on December 3, 1989. In the beginning, financial support had come from gifts, grants and a "2000 Club" call from the Alaska Baptist Convention. The Chugach Baptist Association also helped with pastoral assistance. In 1986, the mission received a grant from Oldham Little Church Foundation and was able to purchase 120 folding chairs with additional help from Faith Baptist Church.

In September 1990, Fairview Loop received \$6,000 from a second Alaska Baptist Convention "2000 Club" call. In 1991 another classroom building was erected and for the first time adult classes, which had been meeting in homes, were able to meet in church buildings.

Fairview Loop holds Vacation Bible School each year, provides boys missionary education through Royal Ambassadors, supports home and foreign mission offerings as well as Gideons and World Hunger. Throughout Leonard's ministry he provided ongoing studies to encourage spiritual growth as well as leadership development.

In September 1994, Leonard Everman resigned as pastor after 12 years at Fairview Loop to become executive director of Alaska

Baptist Family Services. Currently Fairview Loop has a search committee which is seeking a new pastor. Plans for the new building are on hold as of 1996.

In February 1996 Fairview Loop Baptist Church called Tom UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Hoffman as pastor. Tom, his wife Linda, and son Thomas moved to Wasilla later that same year. Tom served bi-vocationally for five years until he retired from military service with the Air Force in February 2001. From the beginning of Pastor Tom's ministry, a full schedule of services was implemented including Sunday School, Sunday morning and evening worship, Wednesday prayer meeting and soon, mission education through Mission Friends, Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, Acteens, and Challengers were restarted. The church was growing and they worked hard to add Sunday School space, add onto the church building and plan for future construction. The church really had a heart to work.

At a planning meeting in 2002, it was decided to consider building a new facility. The church had purchased adjoining property, so it would be easier to build the new facility while keeping the existing church building and portables for temporary education space. With prayerful consideration the church body determined to build a facility that would seat 400, be totally handicap accessible, and—the biggest hurdle—build debt free. They understood that if this was going to happen, God would have to do it and only He could get the glory. At the beginning of 2003 there was almost \$4000 in the building fund, they had outgrown the old facility and were holding two Sunday morning services, an 8:00 a.m. service and a 10:30 a.m. service with Sunday School between at 9:00 a.m. People came weekly to the church grounds to pray over the ground on which the new facility would be built. They also prayed for the surrounding community, the outreach of the church, and witness opportunities for the church and its members. By the fall of 2005, knowing they were on track to have the funds to build the fellowship wing in 2006, mission teams were enlisted to help build. They came from Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, and Texas. The fellowship wing was completed, and the first worship service was held in the fellowship hall on Easter Sunday 2007. It was great to have the entire congregation back together in worship.

The sanctuary would be the next phase of construction and in the fall of 2011, the church was on track financially to build in 2012. Again, God brought mission teams from Arkansas, Mississippi, Ohio, North Carolina, Missouri, and Texas. People continued to pray over the site and for our community weekly. We received permission to occupy the sanctuary January 23, 2013.

The final phase of the building was the education wing. Resources to complete this phase of the project were available by the fall of 2017 and they began planning for construction in the spring of 2018. God lined up work teams from



Arkansas, North Carolina, Mississippi, and South Carolina. The church began using the education wing in the fall of 2018.

God has continued to grow the church and increase missions involvement even during the building process. Fairview Loop is the sending church for a church family that has served in Ghana Africa since November 2016. One of the young men serves as a military chaplain at Eielson AFB and Clear AFS. College students have served on multiple Nehemiah projects with the IMB in East Asia and Botswana. This church is also a sending church for another couple in their fellowship that is pursuing a call to serve with an orphanage in Togo Africa. The youth of Fairview Loop have been involved in missions on Kodiak Island with Frontier Baptist Church, Old Harbor (a native village) working with Alaska native youth leading a Bible camp for seven years, and Serving at Camp Woody on Kodiak Island, a week-long Native Youth Camp. The church sponsored a two-week mission trip to South Korea to teach English as a second language and Vacation Bible School. The team saw a mixed group participate. Some were from the Baptist church that hosted the team but many attended who were Hindu and some who had no religious background. The following summer Fairview Loop hosted a dozen Korean children and housed them with church families in an immersion experience. They also host a Korean congregation and Cowboy Church at their site in Wasilla. Church members have served in local missions each year right in their own area. Several Fairview

Loop college students are either in, or will begin, seminary in the fall of 2018

Pastor Tom has now served the church for 25 years.

Kyle (Emily) Sparks was called as associate pastor late in 2019. His first Sunday was December 1, 2019.



Verse Alert Sunday occurs once a month. Each class is given the opportunity to recite a verse or passage of scripture. "Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee." Psalm 119:11

Faith Baptist Church Fairbanks, Alaska

Date Begun: September 1977

Date Constituted: January 13, 1988

(Began as a church—no sponsor)

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Beginning

Faith Baptist Church began when about 12 families, some from University Baptist Church, Fairbanks, decided to begin a new work in September 1977. Dennis Cochran was the first pastor and David Walstad was Music Director. The church met first in a rented community hall on the southwest side of Fairbanks, and then moved to Woodrider Elementary School for morning worship. The new congregation met in homes for evening worship. All of this led to the trunk of David Walstad's car becoming permanent storage for this "church on wheels."

Building Programs

In 1978 the church purchased two acres of land at 1.8 mile Chena Pump Road. A building program began in 1979 with the first building unit completed and dedicated in 1980. A second building program took place in 1987 with the construction of a new sanctuary and some much needed office space.

Growth and Additional Staff

The church has been self-supporting since its beginning. There are about 106 members with an average attendance of 65 in Sunday School and 75 in worship. Three charter members are still actively involved.

Faith Baptist Church, as it continued to grow and develop, also saw the need for additional church staff. Gwenetta Johnson, the first paid secretary, was on staff November 1989 until October 1991. Ron

Reihl was hired as Associate Pastor/Religious Education Director 1986-93. In October 1991 the church called Isla Saulcy as Director of Music and Helen Parks as church secretary. Wally and Jeanine Smith and family were called as pastor in April 1993. Wally, Isla and Helen continue to serve the church.

The Faith Focus

The focus of Faith Baptist Church over the years has been in three major areas: Missions, Discipleship Training and Music. Work teams have gone to Tanzania, Africa and England. Two members, Ryle and Marilyn Radke, surrendered to foreign missions in 1992 and have served in Nigeria and are currently in The Gambia, West Africa. The "Bells of Faith," handbell choir was invited by the Foreign Mission Board to go on an evangelism trip to the island of St. Martin in the Caribbean in April 1995.

Evidence of the priority given to Discipleship Training is seen in Ryle and Marilyn Radke's being appointed by the Foreign Mission Board; Rick Sterling surrendering to the gospel ministry; and former member David Walstad attending seminary in preparation for full-time Christian music service.

The Music Ministry centers on adult and children's choirs and an English Handbell program involving children, youth and adults.

Pastors

Other pastors who have served the church are: Omer and Alice Irby, 1980; Gene and Jane Medaris, 1981; John and Alvilda Dickerson, 1982; Phil and Dee Conner, 1983-85; Ray and Jane Nelson, 1985-1992; and Wally and Jeanine Smith, April 1993- Present.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Since 1995, God's faithfulness to Faith Baptist Church has been displayed in many areas. He has faithfully provided leaders to the

Faith Baptist Church; Fairbanks (cont.)

church. He has given the family at Faith Baptist Church a heart for His Word and proclaiming His name to the nations. Finally, amidst restructuring the leadership of the church, God ensured that His people continue to walk in His way.

Pastors:

In 1993, Pastor Wally Smith transitioned to full-time work at Wayland Baptist University. Faith Baptist Church will always be grateful for Pastor Wally and his wife, Jeanine, for their nine years of leadership. Pastor John Guerra, and his wife, Terry, from Arkansas served the church from 2002-2004. Both Pastor Wally and Pastor John graduated from Southwestern Theological Seminary. In 2005, God brought recent Southern Baptist Theological Seminary graduate, Pastor Bryan Myers, and his wife, Rebecca, to serve Faith Baptist Church. Pastor Bryan is the current pastor.

Proclaiming His Word

While the past 25 years have seen three pastors lead Faith Baptist Church, God has blessed the congregation with a consistent yearning for His word. Faith Baptist centralizes around an accurate Bible proclamation on Sunday morning and a congregation dedicated to living out this Word throughout the week. In 2012, Ryle Radke took on the role of Discipleship Leader. This position is designed to engage the church in Bible studies and focuses on fueling the congregation's passion for the gospel. Faith Baptist has regular Bible Studies and retreats for its congregation.

Missions naturally outpours from a healthy church. Faith Baptist Church has been on 10 mission trips since 1995. In 1999, Jeanine Smith led a group to Thailand and four years later, in 2003, Faith sent another group back. In 2001, Wally Smith and Ryle Radke prayer walked across the Gambia. In 2004, a group shared the gospel and their testimonies in villages across Western Russia. After the tsunami struck Banda Ache, Indonesia, a group of men led by Pastor Bryan Myers and Ryle Radke went for two weeks to provide disaster relief. The Lord has blessed Faith Baptist with many talented members whose heart is to use their talents to further Christ's kingdom. To that end, Ryle Radke led three dental focused

mission trips to Senegal between the years 2008- 2011. In 2014, four women from the church went to North East China to teach English and support one of our missionaries. In similar fashion, a group led, by Pastor Bryan, went to Jordan to work with Syrian refugees in 2015. Finally in 2016, Faith Baptist Church sent a recent high school graduate to Northwest China to work with a local missions organization there. During her time, she attended a local university of 36,000 and shared the gospel with many Uighur and Dongxiang Muslims, Han people, and her classmates from around the world. While each of these trips varied in "purpose"—some provided dental care to the villages, some taught English to refugees, and some gave discipleship training to new Christians—each centered around making God's name known to the ends of the earth.

Restructure:

In late 2010, Faith Baptist Church began to reassess the Biblical mandate for leadership. Up until this point, the church had deacons and a pastor. However, the church saw the need for elders to help lead the church. As a congregationally ruled church, in April of 2011 the congregation voted and adopted the elder led model. The first elders included Jim Johnson, Pastor Bryan Myers, and Ryle Radke. While the transition to elder led was not always easy, God is faithfully using the elders to lead His church in unity.

Around this same time, the church began reviewing on the role of members in a congregation. As with most churches, Faith Baptist's member list was fairly outdated and did not provide an accurate summary of who was actually involved in the church. They saw that Biblical membership should reflect those in attendance and fellowship with the body. Therefore the elders reached out and contacted distant members and sought to reengage them. While this process is tedious, they truly believe it is the foundation of a healthy church. Faith Baptist Church is excited to see where the Lord guides in the years to come.

Faith Recovery Fellowship Wasilla, Alaska

Date Begun: 2014

Date Constituted: January 10, 2015

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Faith Recovery Fellowship (FRF) came into being toward the end of 2014. Chaplain Scott (Kelly) Thompson is a chaplain at Goose Creek Correctional Center and was asked if he would assume the role of Community Chaplain in 2014. It became immediately clear that there needed to be a ministry presence in the Mat-Su Valley to effectively work with both returning citizens and community members. FRF was born! In 2014 the ministry started as a church plant and transitioned into a Chaplaincy Ministry in 2017.

Chaplaincy ministry inside the institution is designed to aid in discipleship, education and transitional classes to help men prepare for release from incarceration. In addition, The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) classes are being taught inside to train men to prepare for

Christian leadership ministry. Discipleship and Leadership training are key to preparing individuals to help reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ both inside and outside the institution.

It is the goal of FRF to address the very tough transition from being incarcerated to becoming a productive member of the local church and the community. This reentry transition requires help with job placement, housing and the myriad of things that need to be addressed upon release including transportation needs.

The ministry of Faith Recovery Fellowship is multi-faceted:

- To evangelize and disciple inside the institution
- Aid in reentry back into the church and community
- Hold Bible study classes both inside and outside
- Train leaders through The Urban Ministry Institute under the direction of World Impact (outside) and Prison Fellowship (inside)
- Reach out to rural Alaska with discipleship ministry by partnering with Great Commission Alaska (aviation ministry)

Filipino Bible Church

Anchorage, Alaska

page 39

Date Constituted: March 23, 1999

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Filipino Bible Church started out as a Bible Study group in its early years. This group was led by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Fu and the Bible Studies were usually held in their home. In the summer of 1993, Joel and Beth Reyes were invited to Anchorage for a week to lead a church camp that the Bible Study was having at Laverne Griffin Youth Camp. During that week, Joel Reyes also led some Bible Studies. In December 1993, the Church officially called Joel to be their full-time pastor. In March 1994, the Church held its first service at Anchorage Bible Fellowship on Government Hill. That summer, the Filipino Bible Church moved its meeting place to First Church of the Nazarene on 13th and E Street. God was very gracious, and the church grew, so much so that we could no longer fit in the basement of the Nazarene Church.

God opened an opportunity for the church to move into their current facility in 1996. At that time, the building was called

“Multi-Ethnic Christian Center” because we had purchased the building in partnership with two other ethnic churches – a Korean and a Spanish congregation. In God’s providence and goodness, Filipino Bible Church was able to purchase the building as a sole owner within three years and hence the church is mortgage –free.

The Church started as a small group of 29-30 people every Sunday, but it grew and even reached to more than 200 people in average attendance every Sunday. In 2008, Pastor Nick Morlet was called to be the Youth Pastor of the church. But in the same year, Pastor Joel Reyes resigned as the Pastor of the church. In 2009, Pastor Victor Abalos, briefly served as Interim Pastor for almost a year. Having without a pastor for the years that followed was exceedingly difficult for FBC, but the Lord was faithful. In 2012, the Lord answered the prayers of the Leadership and the Church by providing them a new Pastor in the person of Pastor Val P. Natcher. Indeed, the Lord is the Lord of the Church and He declared that “I will build My Church and the gates of hell will not overcome it” (Matt. 16:18). Trusting the Lord of the Church, FBC looks forward to significantly contribute to the accomplishment of the Vision that He has given His Church even the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).



First Baptist Church

Anchorage, Alaska

Date Begun: September 19, 1943

Date Constituted: September 14, 1953

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Mission Work of Military Chaplains

When World War II was at its peak, Southern Baptist work began in Alaska with the organization of First Baptist Church, Anchorage, on September 19, 1943. The church was begun at the Post Chapel on Elmendorf AFB as a result of the preaching and mission work of chaplains Aubrey Halsell and Jewell D. Foster.

First Baptist Church was organized with 17 charter members, 15 military and 2 civilian men. These men came from 10 states and the Territory of Alaska. The first baptismal service took place at Otter Lake on Elmendorf AFB on September 26 when Chaplain Halsell baptized Corporal Herbert Dennis. The little congregation found two lots and a burned-out residence at 424- 426 Sixth Avenue. By giving all their paychecks and borrowing from friends, the GIs raised \$1,000 and a civilian member loaned \$1,000 for the down payment on the property. The property was purchased for \$5,000 and after a lot of hard work the little building was dedicated to the Lord on May 7, 1944. A short time later, Chaplain Halsell was transferred to the Aleutian Islands leaving the church without a pastor. In June 1944, Rev. William Petty, a seminary student, became the first civilian pastor.

“Move over, I’m coming in” (Felton H. Griffin)

Chaplain Aubrey Halsell wrote an article entitled “Baptists In Alaska” which was published in the Brotherhood Journal in the spring of 1944. Felton H. Griffin, pastor of First Baptist Church, Kamack, Texas, read the article and was greatly impressed that God was calling him to Alaska to help establish Baptist churches. Pastor Griffin wrote Chaplain Halsell: “Dear Major. Move over. I’m coming in. Anything I should bring. Felton Griffin.”

In the spring of 1945, Bill Petty resigned the pastorate of First Baptist Church and after several weeks, Felton Griffin was called as pastor. Brother Griffin said, “God placed us where many young men were lonely, away from home, and ready to listen to what God had to say.” On the church’s 25th anniversary it was reported that since Felton Griffin had become pastor in 1945, the church had baptized 1,439 converts and that 250 men had surrendered to special service.

Under Griffin’s leadership, the church began a kindergarten in 1951 led by Ruth Murdock and Laverne Griffin. In 1952, First Baptist Church became the first church in Anchorage to broadcast its Sunday morning services on television. Since 1968, the city-wide presentation of “THE MESSIAH” has been held at First Baptist Church each December.

Houses of Worship

In 1945, the growing congregation saw the need for a larger building. Construction began and was completed in the spring of 1947. This building was destroyed by fire in 1953. The congregation met in the Carpenters Union Hall for the next two years while a new concrete block building was being built. This building withstood the 1964 earthquake, while just across the street, the J.C. Penney Department Store was reduced to a pile of rubble. When J.C. Penney Company rebuilt, the company purchased the church property for almost one million dollars.

First Baptist Church relocated to property on Tenth Avenue and L Street and construction got underway in the fall of 1965. The con-

gregation met in Central Junior High until the building was completed. The attractive structure of exterior rock has become a Park Strip landmark in the city. The building, with seating capacity of 1,100 in the auditorium and balcony plus 120 in the choir loft, was dedicated in May of 1967. After 30 years, Felton Griffin resigned as pastor on June 16, 1974, to go into fulltime evangelism. Dr. Troy Prince, executive secretary of Alaska Baptist Convention, served as interim pastor until 1975.

Pastors: 1975-96

Alvin Wood of Flagstaff, Arizona came as pastor of First Baptist Church in spring of 1975. Under Alvin Wood’s leadership, the church parking lot was paved, an Allen organ and a complete sound and lighting system were installed, and the balcony was completed. Pastor Wood also led the church to begin a mission endeavor in Cold Bay, Alaska. Wood resigned in May 1979 to go to a pastorate in Seattle, Washington.

Dr. Harold Hime, who had served as executive director of Alaska Baptist Family Service Center, was called as pastor in November 1979. During Hime’s tenure as pastor, First Baptist assumed the sponsorship of the Baptist Mission in Nome, made final payment of the church debt July 27, 1980, started South Anchorage Baptist Mission in 1982, and the Denali Mission was started with a group of First Baptist families in 1983. Several outreach ministries were begun including

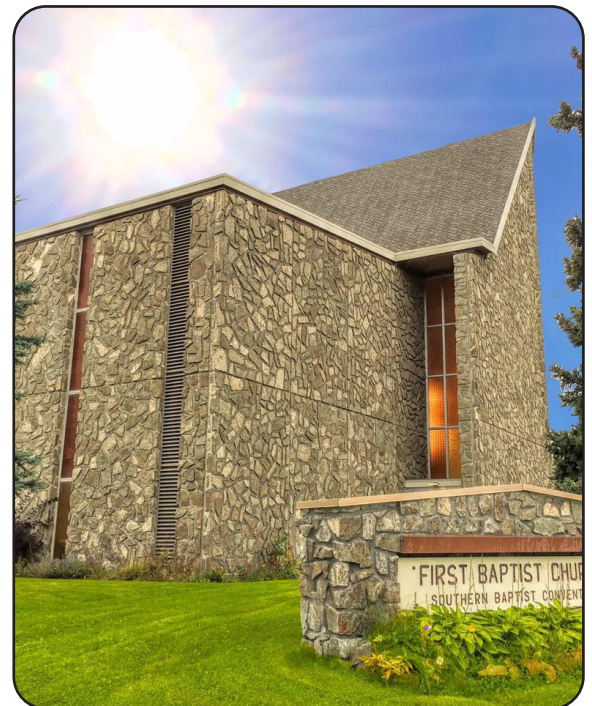
Mother’s Day Out program and Super Tuesday - both begun in 1980.

The church also hosted a Senior Citizen’s Day Care program which began in 1982. Other ministries using the church facilities were Samaritan Counseling Center, Alcoholics Anonymous and Overeaters

Anonymous, and Bible Study Fellowship. In February 1980, First Baptist Church was used as the media center for the world press to cover the visit of Pope John II to Anchorage. Harold Hime resigned in June 1987 to take a position with the Home Mission Board.

Frank Minton served the church as pastor from 1988-1990. In 1989, additional property on the southside of the church was purchased.

Dr. Marvin Owen was called as pastor May 29, 1992, from Hobbs, New Mexico where he had served as Director of Missions. Coming with him to Alaska were his wife, Sue, and two sons, Scott and Michael. In September 1993, First Baptist Church celebrated its



50th anniversary with many friends and former members. During 1994-95, a playground area was developed on the south side of the church building. A work team from Winona, Mississippi helped paint the interior of the building in June of 1995.

The Sunday morning Bible study has an enrollment of 310 with an average attendance of 185. This includes a new International Friends Sunday School class for about 15 Mien immigrants from Laos taught by Becky Norsworthy. First Baptist Church teachers also lead a Bible class at the Anchorage Pioneer Home with 30 residents enrolled. There has been an annual average of 14 additions by baptism to the church, for the past 10 years. The total resident membership now stands at 595.

Mike and Virginia McKay, retired home missionaries, lead an Intercessory Prayer Ministry with 15 intercessors involved in this vital ministry of First Baptist. The McKays were named Missionaries Emeritus as part of the church's 50th anniversary celebration.

First Baptist Church continues its Mother's Day Out program and its support of the Nome Mission where Ron and Jan Aguillard serve as home missionaries.

In June 1996, a work team from Tallowood Baptist Church in Texas is scheduled to come and help paint the sanctuary and begin work on adding an elevator to the building.

Other Church Staff Members

Ministers of Music/Youth include: Roger Laube, Ed Spencer, Steve Littlefield, Jonathan DeCou, Danny Martinez and Bob Brittain. Ministers of Education were Clifford S. McConnell, Allen H. Meeks and Kathleen Evans (Cox).

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Missions/Churches Begun by First Baptist Church

In its history, First Baptist Church, Anchorage, has begun 13 new missions, most of which have constituted into churches. They are:

Calvary Baptist Church, Anchorage, 194 7

Faith Baptist Church, Anchorage, 1949

Eastchester Baptist Church (Fairview Baptist merged with Grandview), 1949

First Baptist Church, Palmer, 1949

Greater Friendship Baptist Church, Anchorage, 1951

First Native Baptist Church, Anchorage, 1953

First Baptist Church, Soldotna, 1959

Sunset Hills Baptist Church, Anchorage, 1960

Butte Baptist Mission, Palmer, 1961

Nome Baptist Mission, Nome, 1972

Cold Bay Mission, Cold Bay, 1976

South Anchorage Baptist Church, Anchorage, 1982.

Denali Baptist Mission, Anchorage (merged with Muldoon Road), 1983

Much has happened in the last 25 years at First Baptist Anchorage.

In 1995, the pastor was Marvin Owen. Melanie Crockett became the Youth Minister, and Paula Jackson became interim Worship Leader.

In 1996, Keith Bennett was brought on as Associate Pastor and Minister of Music.

July of 1997 saw the beginning of the TV ministry.

Bryan Lane was brought on as part-time Youth Pastor in October of 1998.

November 1998 saw the start of the Children in Action program.

A fundraiser was started to raise money for an elevator, and in

April of 2001, construction of the new elevator commenced.

In June of 2001, Children in Action had grown to the point of needing to branch off, and so began Mission Friends, Girls in Action, and Royal Ambassadors.

The elevator installation was completed later in 2001.

February of 2002 saw the implementation of a Sunday School Director, Bill Holm.

In April of 2002, Pastor Marvin Owen resigned to become the Editor-in-Chief for Church Leadership Publishing section of Life-way Christian Resources.

Jeff Anderson was called to be our Interim Pastor in October 2002. Youth Director was Ray Adkins, and Cathy Arns became the Finance Secretary.

In August of 2003, Jae McKee was called to be the Minister of Youth, and in October of 2003, Jimmy Woods became Interim Pastor.

In September of 2004, Dr. Edward (Cynthia) Gregory was called to be Senior Pastor. He served for the next 9 years, retiring in May 2014.

The year 2015 saw significant changes to the people of First Baptist. Transitional pastor, Jim Poorboy, was called to help the church work through some problems, and he used the Peacemakers study. His time ended in July of 2016.

Pastor Cliff (Jennifer) Day was called as Senior Pastor in August of 2016, serving until December 2018, when he was called to pastor in Sitka, Alaska.

In 2016, Brian Hollandsworth became the Worship Leader until he was transferred out of state by the military. Kyle Miller took over as Worship Leader when Brian left.

In 2017, Scott Bennett became Youth Leader.

Since January 2019, First Baptist Church has been without a pastor, and has been gladly welcoming in guest speakers such as Randy Covington, Jimmy Stewart, Jae McKee, Bruce Strickland, Charles Bridges, Ron Slepecki, Bryan Riggs, Stephen Zachary, and others. These men had to make adjustments as the COVID-19 virus shut down our country for a couple of months.

Gary (Donna) Moats became pastor July 1, 2020. Under his guidance, the church has partnered with a young congregation to share the facility and operate a joint Sunday school. Both congregations have seen growth in this beneficial arrangement, and look forward to seeing what God does through them in the years ahead.

First Baptist Church

Delta Junction, Alaska

Date Begun: Spring 1952

Date Constituted: September 1, 1954; reconstituted May 17, 1966

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Fairbanks

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Big Delta Mission Begins in a Tent

In the spring of 1952, Rev. Orland Cary, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fairbanks, asked Ben Glover of Big Delta if he would donate or sell some land to start a Baptist mission in Big Delta. Mr. Glover donated 12 acres of land. In July 1952, Rev. and Mrs. Paul Hilty drove from Shawnee, Oklahoma, to become the mission pastor. They held services in a tent that was also their home, while starting work on a log building.

Floyd Newby, owner of the local sawmill, sold the logs to the mission at cost. Rev. Hilty and members of the church were working hard to complete the building for use in the October simultaneous revival when the sawmill broke down. Logs became available just two weeks before the revival was to begin. Pastor Or-

land Cary and Richard Miller who was working at Native Mission in Fairbanks, went to Big Delta, pitched a tent and worked long hours with the local people to see the building completed. Floyd Newby and his wife, who had contributed so much to the building, were the first to accept Christ in the new building.

After a misunderstanding between Rev. Cary and Rev. Hilty, several preacher boys served the church as pastor including Richard A. Miller, Donald R. Davis, and Lloyd Elder. Rev. Cary drove from Fairbanks for Sunday afternoon services, and then he would drive back to be at First Baptist Church, Fairbanks, for the evening service.

First Baptist Church, Big Delta

On September 1, 1954, the First Baptist Church, Big Delta, was organized. Brother Bill Kuykendall was called as pastor of the new church of 15 charter members. During the summer of 1964, the Big Delta Church purchased the present site in Delta Junction and the church name was changed to First Baptist Church, Delta Junction. A 20x20 building was erected under the leadership of Pastor Louis Belcher.

During Pastor Hugh Waddell's pastorate from 1967-1971, many changes occurred. A new deep well was drilled, the church building doubled in size, a trailer was set up and a 14' x 44' wanigan was added to the parsonage trailer. Ground breaking services were held for the new sanctuary and educational unit in April of 1969. In the

summer of 1972, construction led by Pastor David Ray began on the log structure that would become the church sanctuary. The baptistry was completed in time for the revival in April 1972.

When Raymond Nelson became pastor in January 1974, the church consisted of eight families. The church building included a basement-fellowship hall, an educational wing with four classrooms and the church office, and the sanctuary. The seating in the sanctuary consisted of old theater seats. These seats were not nailed or screwed down in the floor, and if an overzealous person jumped up too quickly, all the benches behind became like a set of dominos being knocked over.

Pastor Nelson worked with the congregation and also worked on the building program. Under his leadership the kitchen was finished in the basement, a new Sunday school wing was dug out from under the existing wing, and pews and new carpet added to the sanctuary. The old trailer parsonage was sold and a new parsonage purchased.

In May 1980, Pastor Marlin Starnes (Neva) moved to Delta to begin his 11-year pastorate of the church. As the church grew, another building program began to provide classroom space, and in 1983 work began on the new log sanctuary.

The church outgrew its preschool area; in 1992 a new wing was added to the old renovated sanctuary to become the new preschool department. The fellowship hall was enlarged and the kitchen remodeled under the leadership of Pastor Roy Mooneyham.

The First Baptist Church has grown and expanded over the years. The old buildings are now incorporated into the newer ones.

The nucleus that first saw the need for a church in Delta is now gone, but those who came after them have continued to serve faithfully through the years. The church still sees the need to reach out into the community of Delta with the Good News of God's love and salvation. As long as one person in the Delta area or around the world does not know Jesus Christ as personal Savior, First Baptist Church will continue its mission to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations." Matthew 28:19a.

Missions Begun

In the spring of 1964, approximately 35 families were living in the farming area of Clearwater and they requested First Baptist Church, Delta, to start a mission. Vacation Bible School was held in the summer of 1964 with 22 attending. During the fall, services were held on Saturdays with four Bible study groups. Paul Spriggs donated a two-acre site in the Clearwater area, and a quonset hut was purchased and used as the church building. Approximately 65 people attended the dedication service. Harold Rhodes, an Alaska Communications Systems employee, became the first pastor of Clearwater. When First Delta, called Harold Rhodes to become pastor, Clearwater was left pastorless. The Clearwater Mission closed in the winter of 1965. It was not reopened until January 11, 1984, when the church voted to once again establish a mission in the Clearwater area and to build a mission building.

In 1969, First, Delta Junction, became temporarily involved with the Tok Baptist Mission when they lost their pastor. For the next few



Log church building, circa 1952

months, Pastor Waddell, his wife, k Daisy, and other members of the church, drove to Tok and conducted services on Saturday.

In October of 1982, the church once again became involved with the Tok Mission when it accepted the sponsorship of the Tok Mission from First Baptist Church, Fairbanks.

Pastors

Pastors who have served the in Delta Junction are: Paul Hilty, Bill Kuykendall, James Samples, James E. Akin, Louis M. Belcher, Harold Rhodes, Huel L. Waddell, David W. Ray, Raymond P. Nelson, Marlin Starnes, and Roy E. Mooneyham.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

In the late 90's the congregation met together and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, developed a "dream" for the future. The number one goal was to increase and emphasize prayer. The church continues to work in this area, and is known in the community as a praying church. They regularly have non-church people call to request prayers for a loved one. Another part of the dream was to focus on a youth

program. To accomplish this they built a special youth building in 2004.

In 2011 the church started its journey to replace the carpets in the sanctuary which sparked the realization that the sanctuary's roof also needed to be replaced because the rafters were rotting. New chairs and pews were also purchased. In summer of 2012 the sanctuary's roof was replaced and in the fall the new sanctuary was opened and dedicated.

Today First Baptist Church, Delta Junction offers many ministries to the community to meet diverse spiritual needs. There is a Moms-In-Touch group, who pray for teachers and students in both public schools and home schools. There is an Awana program for children in the community with a regular attendance of 50-70 children. Sunday school is available for all ages. The annual Vacation Bible School ministers to both members and non-members in the summer.

Throughout the year there are different programs for members, such as a children's choir, women's Bible study, and youth events. God has truly blessed the church with people who are willing to step forward and volunteer for service.



First Baptist Church

Eagle River, Alaska

Date Begun: May 26, 1957

Date Registered with State of Alaska: January 12, 1959

Sponsoring Church: Grandview Baptist Church, Anchorage

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Beginning

First Baptist Church of Eagle River began as Trinity Baptist Mission, a mission of Grandview Baptist Church, Anchorage. The name was changed to Eagle River First Baptist Church when the mission was constituted on February 23, 1958, and in April 1989 it was changed to First Baptist Church of Eagle River.

To begin the work, the entire area of Eagle River was contacted through distribution of handbills by RAs, GAs and their counselors. The first meetings were held in the community quonset hut. Soon, two



community quonset hut

blocks north of this area, a lot was purchased with a foundation basement already in place. In August of 1957, the auditorium was started. Services were held there in September. E.C. Chron was pastor when an adjacent lot was purchased. In 1959 bonds were sold and further expansion begun. In 1965 additional bonds were issued for the building of the new sanctuary and classrooms. James Boney supervised members who did much of the work. During Floyd Westfall's pastorate the basement was renovated, which completed the building program as planned.

Community Facility

The community lacked meeting facilities during the '60s and the public health nurse conducted well-baby clinics in the facilities. The Anchorage School District held classes in the buildings due to overcrowding in the schools. The building has been used as a polling place, for scouting programs, and for baccalaureate services. The WMU had a clothes closet at one time to meet the pressing needs of the community. The church has provided food baskets, which included Christian literature.

Outreach Ministries

The men and women of the church have been involved in conducting services at the Anchorage Rescue Mission and the Hiland Mountain/Meadow Creek Correctional Center. Ministries have included puppets and Christian films. From its beginning the church has been involved in contributing materials, labor and money for Laverne Griffin Youth Camp. Various members, have received support from the church including offerings, gifts of snow machines, boat motors and day-to-day necessities.

Missions Support

First Baptist Church, at various times, has contributed to the Baptist Family Service Center, the American Bible Society, the Gideons, the Alaska Baptist Convention, the Chugach Baptist Association, the Alaska Native School of Theology and other worthwhile causes. The church began the work that now is Muldoon Road Baptist Church, the work known as First Baptist Church of Birchwood, and was involved for a time with First Baptist Church of Palmer. For a period of time, First Baptist Church was involved in ministry at Barrow. Numerous men have been licensed to the gospel ministry. Among these was Lloyd Elanga, a Native American who served as pastor in Barrow in 1983-85.

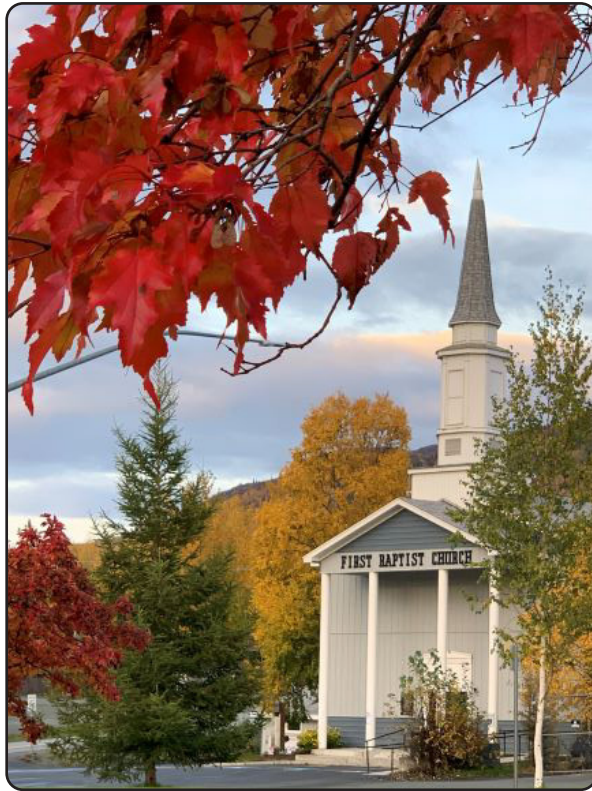
Pastors

Nine men have served as pastors of First Baptist Church in its 39-year history. One of them, E.C. Chron, served two different times. These men are: James Vanderford -1957; Marcus F. Price -1957-58; E.C. Chron -1958-60; James Henderson - 1961-62; John (Jack) Camp, Jr. -1962-64; E.C. Chron -1964-67; Rawls Pierce -1967-73; Floyd Westfall -1974-78; John McClung -1979-85; Bob Buster -1986-Present.

Exciting Days

Since 1986, the church has seen some exciting days. An additional 2.17 acres of land was purchased across the street from the church buildings, which provides for parking. This land has an old 10,500 sq. ft. building that has been renovated into educational space and allowed for growth. The main buildings had a fire a few months after the property was bought, and for a couple of months all services were held in the newly renovated building.

A second staff member has been added to minister in the area of Music/Youth. Sunday School has grown to an average attendance of 217 in the last Church Profile. A budget of \$396,000 is the last adopted budget. The church is negotiating for additional land for expansion.



Laverne Griffin Associational Youth Camp has become even more important to the church. It is used for such things as a Memorial Day Weekend Retreat, a Labor Day Weekend Retreat, Ladies Retreats, Men and Boys Retreats, Singles Retreats, Youth Retreats and an annual Children's Mission Camp. The church has lent support by volunteer work teams led by Rich O'Guin, who also serves as chairman of the Camp Trustees. For several years the church has placed the camp in its budget, with 2 percent going to the camp. This amounts to almost \$8,000 for 1996.

About six years ago, the church began having two morning worship services because of space problems. This continues with the 8:30 a.m. service having become the choice of many of the members.

Perhaps the greatest thing that can be said about these past years has been that the church has learned to love God, to love one another as they should, and thus there has developed a tremendous spirit. There is a strong sense that God is doing some great things but that He has even greater things ahead. "The Best Is Yet To Come."

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Pastors who have served in the twenty-first century are David George, 2000-2006; Jeff Anderson (interim), 2007-2008; Todd Burgess, 2008-2017; and Ted Swezey, 2019-present

First Baptist Church

Fairbanks, Alaska

Date Begun: September 17, 1944

Date Constituted: April 17, 1947

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Lafayette, LA

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Effectual Prayer

Mrs. Ethel Cromer, a widow of a Southern Baptist minister, came from Oklahoma to live in Fairbanks in the early 40s. When she found no Baptist church she began attending First Presbyterian Church, but she longed and prayed for a Southern Baptist church. She wanted to write the Home Mission Board, but didn't have an address. She prayed.

Down in Louisiana, God was working in the heart of C.O. Dunkin, a businessman and a student at Acadia Baptist Academy. Brother Dunkin had learned of the beginning of Baptist work in Anchorage through Chaplain Aubrey Halsell. Through correspondence with Chaplain Halsell, Brother Dunkin had learned of the need for establishing Baptist work in Fairbanks. Brother Dunkin and his wife Alma headed north and arrived in Fairbanks in 1944. He found employment with the Fairbanks Fire Department and began searching for any person of Baptist faith. In two weeks he found the first person of like faith. Brother Dunkin advertised that Baptist services would be conducted September 17, 1944, at the Masonic Temple. Five persons attended: the Dunkins, Frank Reynolds, Ethel Cromer, and her grandson, Glen Cornet.

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Lafayette, LA

Within a year and half, property was bought by the Dunkins at 6th and Wickersham and a basement 32x50 feet was erected with volunteer help by the members. Since there was no Baptist church in Fairbanks, C.O. Dunkin's church back in Louisiana, First Baptist Church, Lafayette, Louisiana, extended an arm of support to the new Baptist mission.

A Place of Worship

The first services in the new building was on Thanksgiving Day in 1945. Prayers of thanksgiving were offered to God for their very own place of worship. Mrs. Dunkin became ill, and it became necessary for the Dunkins to resign. Before his departure, the mission constituted at First Baptist Church, Fairbanks, on April 14, 1946. The new church asked Pastor Felton Griffin, First Baptist Church, Anchorage, for help in securing a new pastor. Orland (Mabel) Cary was called. They drove the Alcan Highway and arrived in Fairbanks on July 8, 1946. When the Carys arrived, the church had only 13 adult members and five children. God blessed and the church embarked on a building program in 1947.

The new church building was a two-story, concrete block, L-shaped building which was completed in 1950. The church purchased additional property adjacent to the new building. This building project was made possible by the sacrificial gifts of labor and money given by the members and the sale of Broadway Church Bonds. The church also received a \$5,000 gift from a former mem-

ber, Mrs. Minnie Veal, and a \$10,000 gift from the Home Mission Board, along with gifts from many other Southern Baptists.

Church Growth and Outreach Ministries

Souls were saved and added to the church through baptism; many more joined the church by transfer of letter. A radio ministry was carried over KFRB in the early years and in later years over KJNP. Jail services and Rescue Mission ministries have been provided by First, Fairbanks. Men and women were called into Christian service and some were licensed and others ordained to preach. Among those who were ordained and later served in Alaska were: Gene Medaris, Keith Foster, Charles Less, Carl Elder, Lloyd Elder, Donald Davis, and Andy Euler. Orland Cary's pastorate concluded in November 1958.

Other Pastors Who Served

Donald Davis (Elizabeth) was called as pastor, and he served into early 1961. In February, 1960, a fire destroyed the church building. The present edifice was erected and dedicated on December 11, 1960.

Pastor Davis was followed by Oliver Marson (Ellie) who had served in Juneau and Fort Yukon before coming to First, Fairbanks. During his pastorate from 1961-68, the church loan with the Home

Mission Board was refinanced and the church went through the devastating flood of August 1967. First, Fairbanks became a refuge for stranded flood victims and also the headquarters for the volunteers who came from churches across the South 48 to help clean-up and rebuild all



the churches damaged in the Fairbanks area.

Don Davis was called for a second time and he served the church from 1968-1977 at which time he resigned for health reasons. During his pastorate, the sanctuary was carpeted, oak pews and pulpit furniture were installed, a Steinman grand piano was purchased and a sprinkler system installed in the basement. The church also purchased a new parsonage and celebrated its 25th anniversary on April 18, 1971.

John Jeffcoat served as interim pastor for about a year until Robert Eason (Connie) came to serve in 1978. Andrew Euler was ordained in 1981 and he served as associate pastor of youth. The church installed some decorative paneling in the front of the sanctuary as well as reorganized the office space to allow for the office of the Director of Missions of Tanana Baptist Association. The Home Mission Board loan on the building was paid off in October 1982 and a note-burning service was held in conjunction with the 37th anniversary celebration in April 1983.

First Baptist Church; Fairbanks (cont.)

Denver Copeland served as interim pastor from 1988-1990 and as pastor from 1990-91. Horace Bums (Elizabeth) served as interim pastor from 1991-1992.

Jerry Taylor (Bonnie) became pastor in July 1992. First Baptist Church celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1994. Members from all five of the missions begun by First Baptist Church shared in the celebration.

Missions Begun

First Baptist Church, Fairbanks, has begun and sponsored five missions in its history. They are:

North Pole Baptist Mission (also known as Davis Mission or 14 Mile Mission) which was begun in 1951 and constituted as First Baptist Church, North Pole, September 6, 1953.

Big Delta Mission was started in a tent in the summer of 1952 and constituted as First Baptist Church, Big Delta, on September 1, 1954.

St. John Mission was an outgrowth of black people who were members of First Baptist Church who asked to have their own services on Sunday afternoon. St. John was constituted as St. John Baptist Church in February, 1954.

During the years of 1952-53, First Baptist Church was responsible for services and construction supervision of the Native Baptist Mission. The Native Mission was constituted as Friendship Baptist Church on April 24, 1988.

In June 1964, First Baptist Church began the Tok Mission and continued sponsoring it until 1984 when First Baptist Church, Delta Junction assumed sponsorship.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

First Baptist Church in Fairbanks was to celebrate 75 years of planting seeds within the Interior of Alaska in 2020. Then the pandemic happened, but First Baptist continues to be active in its community. Founded as a mission of First Baptist Church of Lafayette, Louisiana, in 1945, First Baptist serves the last, the least, and the lost of Fairbanks and beyond. Providing a building as the home for Fairbanks Hispanic Foursquare Church and Frontier Baptist Church, First Baptist is able to reach a myriad of different cultural communities within the Interior, providing opportunities for sister churches to thrive without worrying about finding a place to worship and serve. First Baptist further serves the Interior through the monthly support provided to Love, INC, Fairbanks Rescue Mission, CareNet Pregnancy Center, and the JP Jones Center. The Tanana Valley Baptist Association office and the Interior regional collection center for Operation Christmas Child are housed at First Baptist Church. First Baptist has a heart that reaches across all the SBC churches within the Interior and many different kids across the world one shoebox at a time.

First Baptist is mission focused being recognized as the top per capita giving church by the North American Mission Board multiple times. Additionally, FBC has been awarded several P'ingtu Challenge Awards by the International Mission Board. First Baptist is led by Pastor Mark Howdeshell and his wife, Jo, who have served since July of 2007.

First Baptist Church Juneau, Alaska

Date Begun: June 3, 1934

Date Constituted: July 25, 1946

Sponsoring Church: Antioch Baptist Church, Detroit, MI

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Baptist Nursing Home for Children

Miss Hilda Krause, a missionary of the Northern Baptist Convention who had previously served in Kodiak, came to Juneau in June of 1934 at the invitation of friends who felt there should be a Baptist work in Juneau. Miss Krause opened the Baptist Nursing Home for children with tuberculosis, and it was filled with children coming from as far away as Ketchikan. Miss Krause began daily Bible lessons and Sunday services. Those who were saved wanted to be baptized and organize a church. An appeal was made from one of the 14-year-old boys in the Children Home to "please send a minister so I can be baptized and help start a Baptist church." By this time, Miss Frances Black had arrived to help Miss Krause care for the children, and she started the Baptist Goodwill Center. Miss Black's one desire was to see a Baptist Church organized in Juneau; later, she mortgaged her home to this end.

World War II and Southern Baptist

World War II brought many rapid changes to Alaska, one of which was the beginning of Southern Baptist mission work led by military chaplains. In September 1944, Rev. William Petty, pastor of First Baptist Church, Anchorage, corresponded with Dr. J.T. Spurlin, a Southern Baptist pastor in Detroit, Michigan. The Spurlin family arrived in Juneau in August 1945 to pastor the Baptist group that had

come together under the leadership of Miss Krause and Miss Black. Dr. Spurlin conducted Sunday worship services in the American Legion Hall. Wednesday night prayer meeting and Bible study for boys and girls clubs on Tuesdays and Fridays were held in his home.

First Baptist Church Organized

Twelve years after Miss Krause began a Baptist witness in Juneau, the First Baptist Church, Juneau, was organized on February 3, 1946, with 17 charter members. Dr. Spurlin and the Juneau church were supported and sponsored by the Antioch Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan, where he had recently served. In March 1946, the church sent Dr. Spurlin to Anchorage to assist in the formation of the Alaska Baptist Convention.

In April of 1946, the church purchased two houses on Fourth and Franklin Streets. One was used for the pastor's residence, and the other served as the church building. The first service was held in this building in September 1946.

In 1950, plans were made to purchase land and build a church on Glacier Avenue. In April 1951, Pastor Jimmie Bolton was sent to Seattle to purchase building materials. The church was given \$25,000 by the Home Mission Board to be matched by funds from the congregation of nine members. The building was completed and was in use by October 1951. A bus service was started in 1955 with rides costing \$2.50 each Sunday. Bus stops were made at the Federal Building, the Municipal Building and the Governor's Mansion.

Church Property Condemned for High School Expansion

In 1956, the church had deeded some land along Gastineau Channel to the school district for use of the high school which was under

construction at that time. Ten years later, the Juneau-Douglas Borough, exercising its right of seizure and follow-up condemnation of privately owned properties for school purposes, ordered the church to vacate their premises. The last service was held in this building on August 14, 1966, and the building was eventually demolished during expansion of the high school in 1982. The congregation met at the Seventh Day Adventist church building until land could be obtained and construction of the new building completed.

Tragedy Struck the Church Family

On April 26, 1967, tragedy struck the church family as Rev. Joe Patterson's wife and two of his children died in a fire at their parsonage home on Glacier Avenue. Mina Thurman Patterson of Sonora, Kentucky, was 35 years old and a twin daughter, Sara, was 13, and a son Mark, was 7, when they perished in the fire.

Five years after the first building was condemned, First Baptist Church moved into the lower floor of the new building on Vanderbilt Hill in February 1971. The new facility is a 40x80 prefabricated building sold by Timber Lodge, Inc. and seats approximately 200. This building, costing about \$120,000, was formerly dedicated, debt-free, at the meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention, August 15-17, 1972.

Youth Programs

In 1981, Children and Youth Bible Drills were begun, and First Baptist Church participants were recognized as winners in associational and state tournaments each year. An active camping ministry was begun at the Methodist Campground in the summers of 1981 and 1982 and continued at Echo Ranch for the next several years.

Five Members Called To Gospel Ministry

Five members have been called to the gospel ministry and licensed by the church: Galen Hunt, 1950; Dave Hammock, 1975; Ken McMeans, 1981; John Lichtenberger, 1981; and Greg White, 1982. On August 30, 1983, Greg White was ordained to the work in Southeast Alaska logging camps and villages. Greg and wife Evie ministered at Angoon and Tenakee Springs and then to logging camps on Prince of Wales Island.

Pastors Who Have Served

Fifteen men have served First Baptist Church as pastor since 1945 and they are: J.T. Spurlin, 1946-47; LL Richardson, 1948; Jimmie Bolton, 1949-55; Oliver W. Marson, 1955-57; Bryan Osborn, 1958-59; A.A. Palmer, 1959-61; S.W. Driggers, interim, 1961-63; Richard H. Moore, interim, 1963-64; Joe H. Patterson, 1964-68; Hollis V. Bryant, 1969-73; Charles Gene Foshee, 1973-76; J.R. Mathews, 1976-80; Jimmie Stringer, 1980-86; Johnny Jackson, 1986-93; Marshall Duncan, interim, 1994; Jimmie Stringer, 1994-Present.

Missions Begun

Douglas Island: Services with Howard Smith in charge were begun on October 4, 1953, in the old Episcopal Church on Douglas Island which had been purchased by the Home Mission Board. John Nance, a student summer missionary, worked with the Douglas Mission in the summer of 1954. Mr. Buker, Sunday School director, continued to hold the mission together through 1955, but sometime later it was closed. In January 1962, Dr. S.W. Driggers reopened the mission and conducted Sunday afternoon services until his death in 1963.

Haines Mission: John Arnold, a summer missionary, was sent to Haines in response to a request from Thomas Helms to First Baptist Church, Juneau, for help in beginning a Baptist mission. On June 16, 1957, the first meeting of interested people in Haines was called in the home of Thomas Helms with 17 present. Two of the 17 were

saved during the first service. Roy Stufflebean served as Sunday School director, and in early 1959, Jack Camp was called as pastor. The Home Mission Board purchased a duplex which served as living quarters for the pastor and a meeting place for the mission. Jack Camp resigned the mission work in 1960. Later the mission was disbanded and the property sold.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Ongoing Youth Programs

In the early-mid 2010's, Pastor Jimmie Stringer and his wife, Pat, led an extremely successful Youth ministry, which included mission trips to World Changers in Palmer, AK; to Haines, AK to work on building the New Hope Fellowship Church; and to Oso, Washington, where a mudslide had killed 43 people.

Longevity in the church

FBC's longest serving deacon, and currently chairman of deacons is Harold Moeser who was ordained in 1980 and has now served as a deacon at First Baptist Church, Juneau, for 40 years. Since that time, six deacons have been ordained: Guy Crockroft, Duane Haffner, and Charles Eaddy (1990); Ocie Adams (2005); and Nathan Young and Cedric Kincaid (2014).

The longest serving member is Jewel Garnick Haffner who joined the church in 1964 and continues to attend FBC's monthly services at the Juneau Pioneer Home, where she now lives. She has been and continues to be an inspiration to several generations of FBC members.

Members called to gospel ministry

In the past 25 years three more members have been called to the gospel ministry and licensed by the Church: Guy Crockroft, 1993; Todd Lynn, 2006; and Rhys Mateo, 2014.

Guy Crockroft served as pastor of the Douglas Island Baptist Mission (1993-1996) and interim pastor of FBC in 2016 after the death of Jimmie Stringer. Rhys Mateo served as pastor of the Filipino Baptist Fellowship in Ketchikan from 2014-2019.

Pastors who have served

Jimmie Stringer, 1994-2015; Guy Crockroft, Interim, 2015-2016; R. Eugene Williams, 2016-Present

The Church enjoyed a long season of stability and productive ministry under the pastoral leadership of Jimmie Stringer and Johnny Jackson, who between them covered the FBC pulpit for 35 years. Brother Jimmie was Pastor from 1980-1986, and returned in October 1994 and stayed until the Lord called him home in October 2015. Overall, Brother Jimmie was Pastor at FBC Juneau for 27 years. In between Brother Jimmie's Pastorates, Johnny Jackson Jr. was Pastor from 1986-1994. Brother Johnny went home to glory in December 2019.

Eugene (Rhonda) Williams became pastor December 1, 2016, and is active in Baptist work across the state.



First Baptist Church

Kenai, Alaska

Date Begun: May 12, 1956

Date Constituted: October 27, 1960; reconstituted June 9, 1965

Sponsoring Church: Faith Baptist Church, Anchorage

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Chugach Baptist Youth Rally Opens Mission

A group of young people representing the Chugach Baptist Association Youth Rally and their advisor, Rev. James Dotson, pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Anchorage, participated in the official opening of the Baptist Mission in Kenai on May 12, 1956. The young people spent the day taking census, inviting people of the community to attend services and preparing the building for worship. A special \$115 offering given at the June Youth Rally was used as down payment on the building which cost \$500. Stephen Barnes, a young military preacher boy from Faith, served as pastor until he rotated in July. Jerry Harris, a Baptist Student Union summer missionary, was assigned to work in the area the summer of 1956. When Jerry left at the end of the summer, Bruce Bowden, another young preacher boy from First Baptist, Anchorage, began driving to Kenai every weekend preaching for the little mission.

Church Buildings

The first building was an old tool shed which had been secured from the Wildwood Army Post and moved to a site on main street. A little side room was added and rough siding put on the building. This building was later moved to some property on Birch Street which the Alaska Baptist Convention had purchased. Two quonset huts were moved from Anchorage on to the property. The pastor lived in one quonset hut with no heat or running water.

A two-story building with a daylight basement was built on the property at 2nd and Birch Streets. It provided for an auditorium, classroom space and parsonage space. The first call for the newly established 2000 Club of the Alaska Baptist Convention raised \$480 for this new building.

In 1966-67 the Kenai area was booming due to oil field development. The First Baptist Church applied for a lease from the Bureau of Land Management in January 1967 for 3.5 acres of land at Mile 1 on the North Road. During the summer of 1968, a church building was constructed at Mile 1 of the North Road. The construction of the building was done entirely by the church family. The first service was held in the new building in October of 1968 and a dedication service was held in May 1969.

In the summer of 1983, work was begun on a new educational building with volunteer work teams coming from Oklahoma and Texas. By March 1984, the upper level of the new building, containing church offices, several classrooms, nursery and bathrooms, was completed.

In January 1990, a "Mortgage Burning Ceremony" was held to commemorate the fact that the church had paid off the building mortgage, and the building was debt-free. In 1991, the auditorium was completely remodeled, debt-free, and in 1995 a new Recreation/Bus Barn was constructed, again debt-free.

Pastors Who Have Served

George C. Johnson (Dorothy) was called to pastor the Kenai Mission and arrived on March 10, 1957. The Home Mission Board had agreed to pay a salary of \$300 a month for six months but after that it was cut to \$200. Mr. Johnson had to work at other jobs to support his family. He left the church in 1958.

James Rose was pastor when the Kenai Mission constituted as First Baptist Church, Kenai, on October 27, 1960, with 50 members. Brother Rose resigned March 1, 1961. In early 1963, First Baptist Church ceased to meet due to lack of leadership and inadequate building facilities. Rev. David M. Morris tried unsuccessfully to bring the church back together.

On April 23, 1965, Bill Hansen, Executive Secretary of Alaska Baptist Convention, and Maurice Murdock of Soldotna met with ten people to reorganize First Baptist Church, Kenai, and Kelly Dickson (Mickey) was called as pastor. Brother Dickson began holding regular services the following Sunday in the Armory Building and soon led in building the two-story structure on the property at 2nd and Birch. Kelly Dickerson resigned as pastor due to ill health in May 1972. Kelly led the church to conduct mission Vacation Bible Schools in the villages of Port Graham, Seldovia and others where no Christian services had been held before.

Gene Hamlin was elected to serve as Interim Pastor. The next pastors to serve the church were Hubert Byrd, 1972-73; Robert Bedwell, 1974-76; Roy Williams (Ozella) was called as pastor and arrived on Easter Sunday 1977. George Knight, one of the young members of the church was called to preach, licensed (Nov. 1980) and ordained to the Gospel Ministry in June 1982.

The church extended a call to Rick Rice to serve as Director of Music and Education, and he was ordained by the church in June of 1984. Roy resigned in June 1985 to go to Canada.

Royce Christmas (Betty) served as pastor from 1985-1988 when he resigned to accept a position in Arkansas.

Dean Nichols (Mary Jo) arrived on the field in June 1988 and continues to serve as pastor. In 1993, the church set a record of 62 baptisms. The Lord has been good to His church.

Missions Begun

In April 1972, the church began sponsoring the mission at Moose Pass and again in 1993 became the sponsoring church.

In May 1985, a new mission work was started north of town called the North Road Baptist Mission and called church planter Ben Sheeran to begin that work which is now North Kenai Baptist Church.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

In January 1990, a "Mortgage Burning Ceremony" was held in commemoration of paying off the building mortgage. In 1991 the sanctuary and foyer were remodeled, debt-free.

Mr. Marvin McBee served as music/youth director from May of 1990 until June of 1996. In June 1996, Alan and Sue Reitter took over as youth directors.

In 1994 the church purchased a bus and built a large bus barn which would also be used for recreational purposes. The AWANA program was also started that year.

Bill and Joyce Standley joined First Baptist Church of Kenai in 1995. Bill served as Sunday School director and associate pastor for three years before returning to Texas.

In 1996 Jim Hantz was hired to serve as music director.

In October 1996 and 1997 First Baptist Church of Kenai joined other churches in the area in hosting 'Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames.' As a result of that drama more than 185 professions of faith were made the first year.

The church formed a partnership with a Russian church in Nayfeld, Russia in 1998 and the next year the pastor from Nayfeld visited Kenai for two weeks preaching and visiting other churches in the area.

In the spring and summer of 2003, church members re-sided the entire church building.

In 2006 the church elected a group of six men to serve as Leadership Team with the pastor.

In 2006 Pastor Dean Nichols resigned after serving 18 years. Kenneth Chadwick and his wife, Barbara, were called as interim pastor until June of 2007.

In January 2007 Robin Davis was called as pastor of First Baptist Church of Kenai, and arrived with his family in June 2007.

Since June 2008 a mission team from South Carolina has come every year to help with VBS.

In 2009 Dan Thornton was hired as music director. He resigned in March of 2010 to return to the pastorate.

In October 2010 First Baptist Church of Kenai celebrated its 50th Anniversary.

First Baptist Kenai began a food ministry called The Way Café, serving the homeless community of Kenai in 2011.

In Spring of 2012 Robin Davis left First Baptist, Kenai.

Brian Moore served as interim pastor from 2012-2013

Reverend Al Weeks was called to First Baptist Church of Kenai in the fall of 2013.

In 2014 The Way Café shifted its focus from food service, to a point of need benevolence ministry.

First Baptist Church of Kenai restarted the AWANA program in the Fall of 2018.

First Baptist Church Kotzebue, Alaska

Date Begun: August 16, 1953

Date Constituted: July 15, 1956; reconstituted October 27, 2000

Sponsoring Church: Native Baptist Church, Fairbanks

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

“Come Over and Help Us”

Richard (Dick) Miller was serving as missionary to the Natives in Fairbanks in 1953 when he received a special letter. The letter, from Charlie Sheldon at Kobuk, was a request for information on how to get a Baptist missionary to come and tell Kobuk people about Jesus. As a result of this letter, Dick Miller went to Kotzebue and later to Kobuk to survey the area. Several members of the Native Church in Fairbanks had relatives in the Kotzebue/Kobuk area, and they were excited about sponsoring a new work for them.

“Here, Am I; Send Me”

Richard (Dick) Miller was appointed by the Home Mission Board to Kotzebue in June 1953, to begin the first Southern Baptist work in an Eskimo village above the Arctic Circle. On August 16, 1953, the Kotzebue Baptist Mission opened in a rented house with eight people present for the first service.

Kotzebue Baptist Mission

In October 1953, the Kotzebue Mission moved to a two-story frame building (old pool hall) purchased by the Home Mission Board and located in the middle of town on Beach Road. The Native Baptist Church in Fairbanks began sponsoring the Kotzebue Mission by sending them 25 chairs and some hymnals. In 1954, while attending the annual meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention, Dick met summer missionary Opal Hammond, and they were married in January 1955.

New Church Building

In 1956, a new church building was constructed by the Home Mission Board with Annie Armstrong Offering funds. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Luikart of Seward were employed as contractor/builders. The new building included living quarters for

the first missionary family, Dick and Opal Miller. A special dedication service was held on December 2, 1956.

“Baptist Hotel”

Kotzebue has served as the port of entry to all Baptist work in the Arctic, and the missionary residence has served as “Baptist Hotel” for denominational visitors. Missionary planes flown by Dick Miller, John Thomas, Roy Brentlinger and Harley Shield have provided transportation to the villages for the Native people, summer missionaries and denominational visitors. The private missionary plane also made it possible for the missionary to fly to Kiana or Selawik for afternoon baptismal and/or the Lord’s Supper services and get back to Kotzebue in time for the evening service. Virginia Woman’s Missionary Union provided Dick Miller with the first missionary plane.

First Baptist Church, Kotzebue

On July 15, 1956, First Baptist Church, Kotzebue was constituted with 31 charter members in Kotzebue, Selawik and Kobuk. The Millers served five years in the Kotzebue area and were instrumental in establishing the Baptist church in Kotzebue and in beginning the Kobuk, Selawik, and Kiana Missions.

Dick was involved in building programs every summer. The Kobuk Mission building was built in 1954 and the Selawik building in 1955; the Kotzebue church was constructed in 1956, and the Kiana Chapel was built in 1958.

John and Callie Thomas, missionaries at Kotzebue, began Baptist mission efforts in Shungnak by holding a Vacation Bible School in 1959 which led to the opening of Shungnak Baptist Mission. In 1975, Kotzebue missionary Harley Shield and Tommy and Clara



First Baptist Church; Kotzebue (cont.)

Lee of Ambler began a Sunday School which later developed into Aquillaq Baptist Mission of Ambler.

As Kotzebue became more and more urbanized, the percentage of white population increased. The First Baptist Church has sought to minister to all residents of the community, not just Natives. Records show that six men have been licensed to the gospel ministry by the church; two were Air Force Sergeants, one a school teacher and the other three were Eskimo men.

Missionaries Who Have Served

In 1991, Sid Martin (Marsha) was called as missionary/pastor of First Baptist Church, Kotzebue. In 1994, the Martins were appointed by the Home Mission Board as full-time Catalytic Missionaries to oversee all Baptist mission work in the Arctic as well as to continue as pastor of First Baptist Church. The Kotzebue Church serves the whole community, ministering to Natives, Koreans and Anglos. The church has 62 active participants, with an average Sunday morning Sunday School attendance of 28. An afternoon Children's Church, primarily Native children, was begun in 1991 and enrollment grew to 60.

The First Baptist Church, Kotzebue, has no outstanding debts, and the church facility is sufficient for the work at this time. The building includes the sanctuary, four classrooms, a nursery, and a fellowship hall. The fellowship hall and nursery have recently been remodeled as well as the parsonage living area. New sanctuary furniture was purchased in 1993. The altar table was given in honor of Harley and Martha Shield. A new bathroom was installed in the basement in 1994.

Kotzebue Church receives no outside support at this time other than the missionary's salary. The church not only contributes to all denominational mission offerings, but also gives 11 percent of undesignated funds through the cooperative program. The church provides \$1,000 a month to the mission work in the five villages where

the church sponsors work: Kiana, Selawik, Ambler, Shungnak, and Kobuk. Because of the mobility of the people in the Arctic, church participants come and go too. The main goal of the church is to find stability as the gospel of Jesus Christ is preached in the Arctic.

In 1993, the Radio and Television Commission of SBC, made a feature length video of Sid and Marsha Martin's work in the Arctic, entitled "Northern Lights" which was aired on national television.

Missionaries who have served in the Kotzebue area are: Richard Miller (Opal) 1953-58; John Thomas (Callie) 1959-62; Roy Brenntlinger (Dixie) 1962- 64; John Klepac, Interim 1964-65; Harley Shield (Martha), 1966-77; Elmer Hatfield (Wilma) 1977- 81; Ray Addy (Carol) 1981-87; Jack Breeden 1987-89; Harley Shield, Interim 1989-90; Sid Martin (Marsha) 1991-Present.

Arctic Bible Conferences

The first Arctic Bible Conference was held at Kotzebue, April 13-15, 1960, with 43 attending from the villages of Selawik, Shungnak, Kobuk and Dick and Opal Miller from Kwiguk. John Thomas, missionary at Kotzebue and Dick Miller, missionary then at Kwiguk, used two Home Mission Board planes to shuttle the people into Kotzebue and back home. The Eskimos who came never dreamed of attending a meeting with so many Baptists. The annual Arctic Bible Conference was held for about 15 years rotating between Kotzebue, Kiana, Selawik, Ambler and Shungnak.

First Baptist Church, Kotzebue has had four pastors since the beginning of twenty-first century: 2000-2001, Mike (Catherine) Pur-

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

ple; 2003, Don (Helen) Swofford; 2004-2012, John (Terri) Forrester; 2012-present, Matthew (Tammy) Hoke.

The church is still involved in the missions in Kobuk and Shungnak.

First Baptist Church North Pole, Alaska

Date Begun: 1951

Date Constituted: September 6, 1953; reconstituted January 13, 1958

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Fairbanks

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

14 Mile Mission

The Baptist Mission at 14 Mile, Davis Highway, was begun by First Baptist Church, Fairbanks in 1951. The first services and the first Vacation Bible School were held in homes of the community. Hunter Rentz, a summer missionary, directed the VBS and led the home Bible studies.

Log Building Erected

Pastor Orland Cary, Frank Reynolds, the Heming brothers, Andy Hall and many others worked long and hard to complete the log building for the 1952 Easter service of the North Pole Mission. Carl Smith was called to pastor the mission in the community of 75 homes which had grown up around 14 Mile, Davis Highway. On February 5, 1953, the 14 Mile community was incorporated into a second class town and was named North Pole.

First Baptist Church, North Pole

On September 6, 1953, the North Pole Mission was constituted as the First Baptist Church, North Pole, with 25 charter members and Carl Elder (Wynona) was called as pastor. There were several men

who served short pastorates during the church's first 15 years.

Bill Duncan (Betty) began his 10-year ministry at First Baptist Church, North Pole, in February, 1968. Immediately a radio ministry was begun on KJNP Radio. A new parsonage was built for the Duncans who were living in a small log cabin. Under Brother Duncan's leadership, the First Baptist Church experienced a rapid and consistent growth through evangelistic preaching, aggressive outreach visitation and a bus ministry. Attendance exceeded 500. The church outgrew its facility and plans were made for building a basement on a new church site.

Fire Destroys Log Building

On June 25, 1970, the log church building was consumed by a fire which also destroyed the pastor's personal library. For 4½ months, the church met in the North Pole Elementary School until the



new basement could be completed. The church purchased a Church Building Kit which was shipped to Fairbanks by way of Alaska Railroad. Pastor Duncan and Russ Spanagel supervised the construction of the new building.

Bus Ministry Brings In 400

A bus ministry was begun by Marlin Starnes and continued by Johnny McCoy. Eight buses were running each Sunday with a passenger list of 400 persons to be picked up.

A Day Care Center and Christian School

In September 1975, a Day Care Center was begun and continued in operation for 11 years. A Christian School was operated from 1977-1980. Jim Studstill was Minister of Music and Education at that time.

USAF Church Member Becomes Pastor

Johnny McCoy came to Alaska in the USAF and was stationed at Eielson AFB. He joined First Baptist Church, North Pole in November 1969. Johnny first became involved in the bus ministry during Bill Duncan's pastorate. Johnny served as interim pastor for one year (1978-79) before going to college. In February 1982, Johnny McCoy was called to pastor North Pole again. A deaf ministry and TV ministry was begun and the church continued its growth pattern.

Church Growth and Outreach

The First Baptist Church has experienced both spiritual and numerical growth during Johnny McCoy's 14-year pastoral ministry. The focus of the church is to go back to the basics of agape love. As a result, the members of First Baptist have a yearning to be close to the Father and to reach out in ministries that touch lives that are hurting. Some ministries of the church are: repairing houses for widows and single parents; providing food and clothing through food baskets and food closet; "angel tree" giving at Christmas; a phone call, letter or visit to every church visitor; strong outreach visitation program; and serving meals to the homeless through the Rescue Mission.

The radio and television broadcast outreach has been expanded beyond the North Pole/Fairbanks area and is called "International Arctic Circle Outreach Mission." Audio and video tapes are sent to the village of Venetie and to Far East Russia. Tapes are also sent weekly to shut-ins and to members who are away.

Pastors Who Have Served

Fifteen men have served as pastor or interim pastor of First Baptist Church, North Pole. They are: Carl Smith, Carl Elder, H.A. Zimmerman, William Rhynes, Larry Ragland, Charles Brown, Jerry Lloyd Brown, Mack Royce, Donald Blankenship, O.L. Hibpshman, Frank Miller, Bill Duncan, Nathan Keene, Jerry King, and Johnny McCoy.



UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Over the last 25 years, many things have changed at First Baptist Church. Pastor Johnny McCoy retired in May of 2013. At that time, Jeff Ling, who had been serving in various positions in the church since the mid-90s, was the associate pastor, having being ordained in 2001. The church then elected Jeff to be senior pastor. Methods have been adjusted over the years. People have moved in and out... some who left for a few years have returned. But there is one thing that has not changed. The Word of God, His gospel, remains central to everything the church does.

In recent years, outreach has occurred in the forms of Vacation Bible School, monthly clothing closet, food boxes for families in need, partnerships with Fairbanks Rescue Mission and Love Inc. First Baptist Church continues to broadcast on radio and television through KJNP, and in 2020, like so many other churches, adjustments were made to stream services online for a variety of reasons. Most recently, after years of prayer, the church was able to purchase a building across the street which may one day serve as a soup kitchen, outreach center, or even be used for a new church plant. As God leads, First Baptist Church, North Pole, will follow.

First Baptist Church

Palmer, Alaska

Date Begun: June 1949

Date Constituted: May 1951; reconstituted February 10, 1977

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Palmer Mission

In June 1949, Mike and Virginia McKay began Baptist mission work in Palmer, where Virginia's parents, Mr and Mrs. G.A. Krise, lived. The first meetings were held in homes but later they met in the Seventh Day Adventist building for Sunday services. Felton Griffin preached a revival which resulted in many decisions that gave new life to the mission. After Mike and Virginia left for college, Charles LeClair, a serviceman and member of First Baptist Church, Anchorage, was called to pastor the mission.

First Baptist Church

In May 1951, the Palmer Mission constituted as First Baptist Church, Palmer, with 50 people present. The church began meeting in the Carpenter's Hall. A visiting evangelist, Dr. James Morgan, was instrumental in Avery Richey's coming to pastor First Baptist Church and in getting the Home Mission Board to purchase a parsonage and three lots on which a large concrete building was constructed.

In 1995, the church held a special service to honor the Richey family. Mrs. Edith Richey and her son, Avery Richey, Jr., were honored guests along with Dr. Felton Griffin, retired pastor of the sponsoring church, and Rev. and Mrs. Mike McKay, the first mission pastor of Palmer. The cornerstone from the old building carries the name of Rev. Avery Richey and states the building was built by the Home Mission Board. This stone will be preserved in the new building.

Growth and Decline

Clifford S. McConnell (Millie) was called to pastor, and during his five and half year tenure (1957-63) the First Baptist Church reached a pinnacle of growth and stability in the community. In the years following the McConnell's resignation, the Palmer church dwindled down to three families before they finally disbanded.

Pastor-Missionaries

James and Fern Akin: In 1967, Bill Hunke, Executive Secretary, Alaska Baptist Convention, and Mike McKay, chairman of the missions committee for Chugach Baptist Association, met with interested persons in the Valley concerning Baptist work in the Matanuska-Susitna area. This meeting led to the appointment of James and Fern Akin as area missionaries centered in Palmer. The Akins began holding regular Bible studies in Palmer in 1968. In June 1970, First Baptist Church, Eagle River became involved in reorganizing the Palmer Church by renovating the Palmer building and installing a new furnace with funds provided by the Alaska 2000 Club. On October 4, 1970, the newly organized Palmer Mission met for Sunday School and worship. Thirteen people united with the sponsoring church, First Baptist Church, Eagle River. Pastors included Clyde Garrett, Johnnie, Newton, Lt. Col. B.J. Dier, with Hollis Bryant serving as interim pastor from 1970-74.

B.J. Dier: Appointed pastor/missionary to Palmer and the Mat/Su Valley beginning in June 1975. B.J. Dier resigned in fall of 1976 and Harold Hime served as interim.

Glen (Nancy) Little: Another Home Mission Board missionary, Glen Little, came to Palmer in June 1977 and served the church until

he became Director of Missions for Hatcher Pass Association in October 1986.

Under Glen's leadership, the Palmer church experienced continued growth. The church basement was completely remodeled, and the church purchased property as well as established a building fund toward a new building in the future.

Mission Outreach

During the pastorate of John Dickerson (1955-57), the Big Lake Mission was begun, and Brother Dickerson served both the new mission and the Palmer church. He became full-time pastor of the Big Lake Mission (1957-58) and supervised the construction of the Big Lake log chapel.

In 1979 the Palmer church purchased property for Sutton Mission and shortly thereafter started the mission in a quonset hut on the Granite Creek Camp property. In 1981, the church purchased a double-wide trailer for the Sutton Mission. Glenn Little served as pastor from its beginning until Paul Wells was called as half-time pastor of Sutton in the fall of 1983.

In 1982, Richard Demby reopened Butte Mission, and First Baptist Church, Palmer, called Gary Lemmon as pastor. Paul Wells was called by Palmer as bi-vocational pastor of Butte in July 1983.

For three years, Vacation Bible School teams from Mississippi came to help the Palmer church with a store-front outreach ministry. A vacant department store which was rented provided space for exceptional attendance and community response. The Palmer Youth Group took mission trips to Homer, McGrath, and Mountain View Baptist, Copper Center.

For several years, Palmer Church provided English and citizenship classes for internationals, directed by Nancy Little and supported by Women on Mission, led by Freda Hatton.

Economic Decline Hits Palmer

In 1987 there was a sudden decline in Alaska's economy and population. It was during this time (March 1987) that Judson (Georgie) Owen was called to pastor the Palmer church. The Owens served Palmer for four years during a time of transition as people lost jobs and many families left the state with the collapse of the oil industry.

One special highlight during this period was the gift of the beautiful baptistry painting by artist Kathy Walbaum, given by the family as a memorial to their infant daughter, Ashley. Judson also recalls the Mike Stasco family coming to a saving relationship with the Lord and following the Lord in believer's baptism following the loss of their house in a fire. While serving the Palmer church, Judson Owen was elected president of the Alaska Baptist Convention and served from 1987-1989.

Church Purchases New Site

Following the resignation of Judson Owen in 1991, Tim Clark was called as pastor. Tim had previously lived in Delta Junction. While a member of First Baptist Church, Delta Junction, he had been called into the ministry and had served as pastor of Salcha Church before leaving Alaska to pursue college and seminary. Tim, his wife Glenda, and their children, Elizabeth, Emily, and Joel arrived in Palmer in 1991 and began his ministry with the church. Pastor Clark was elected president of the Alaska Baptist Convention, and in this position he helped to negotiate the Alaska Baptist Convention-Georgia Baptist Convention Partnership. In 1995, Tim and Glenda participated in a volunteers trip to India sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board where Tim preached at an international pastors conference and saw 10,874 first time professions of faith.

With new leadership in place, the Palmer church continued the dialogue concerning building a new facility. A long range planning committee began a study and survey of both church and community. Their report concluded that the original land purchased during the eighties was no longer suitable to meet present and future needs. Gradually the area economy improved, and more and more families returned to the Valley. The church sold the old two-acre property, and before long the Site Selection Committee recommended a parcel of undeveloped acreage in the very heart of Palmer. In October 1994, First Baptist bought five acres next to the Palmer post office on Cobb Street with 500 feet of highway frontage on the Glenn Highway for a purchase price of \$150,000. Only \$15,000 had to be financed for one year, and it was paid off in August 1995—two months early.

Church Building Sold

Since its beginning in 1979, Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church of Anchorage has sponsored a Palmer extension which has met on Sunday afternoons in the First Baptist Church building. Through the years, the two churches have shared joint services and fellowships. With support from the Anchorage parent church, Shiloh Missionary Baptist bought the First Baptist Church building located at 505 South Bailey. Although ownership was transferred, the congregations have continued joint use of the building.

New Building Planned

Even before the Alaska-Georgia partnership was agreed upon, First Baptist Church entered into a partnership with Chattahoochee Baptist Association, Gainesville, Georgia. Georgia Baptists committed to send volunteer builders to help the Palmer congregation construct the first unit, in a three phase building, during the summer of 1996. Plans are to construct a 7,400 square foot facility and occupy it in the fall of 1996.

Ground Breaking

Ceremony

Ground breaking ceremonies were held on April 21, 1996, for the new First Baptist Church, Palmer, building. It was a windy and cool afternoon for the 55 people who gathered on the Cobb Street property to celebrate the ground breaking for the new First Baptist Church building. The School of the Operating Engineers moved on site on Monday, April 29 and began site preparation. The Operating Engineers 302 are donating all the excavation work for the building, the parking, and utility trenches.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Under the leadership of Pastor Tim Clark, First Baptist Church of Palmer began the process of relocation and construction of a new church facility on Cobb Street in 1995. The process was completed in December 1996 when the congregation entered the new facility. Pastor Clark had resigned a few weeks earlier to take the pastorate of another church.

Bruce (Polly) Rowell became pastor in July 1997, moving from First Baptist Church of Oakwood, Georgia. Pastor Rowell had participated in the construction of the new campus when leading a construction mission team from Georgia in the summer of 1996.

From 1997 through 2003, the congregation grew significantly. While the church was exploring various ways of ministry in a building that was almost 100 percent occupied on Sundays, God opened the doors to sell the Cobb Street property and make a second relocation in just seven years. The church completed the sale of the Cobb Street property and immediately began construction of a new campus on East Helen Drive in April - May, 2003. During the construction process of Phase 1, the congregation met for worship in Palmer High School.

In January 2004, Phase 1 was completed and the congregation began ministry from the current campus on East Helen Drive. Construction on Phase 2 (Sanctuary) had begun in the Fall of 2003 and was completed in February 2005. The sanctuary was dedicated May 22, 2005.

Construction of Phase 3 (Family Ministry Center) began 2012 and was completed debt-free in May 2014. Development of Friendship Park, a 3-4 acre public use family park, began in summer 2016. Friendship Park was opened and dedicated in July 2018. On-going development continues to further support the church's ministry plan to reach families in the Palmer community.

Dr. Chuck (Catherine) Esary became the church's first full-time Worship Arts Pastor in 2009 and served until his retirement in 2019. Pastor Chuck lead the church to significant growth in the church's worship ministry. Amanda Knighten continues to serve as the church's Ministry Assistant coming to FBC Palmer in July 2013.

Church members have participated in several mission projects through the Alaska Baptist Resource Network, Hatcher Pass

Association, the North American and International Mission Boards as well as mission trips organized by the church. In early 2020, FBC Palmer became the "Sending Church" for Cody and Rachel Pellerin as church planters through deaf ministry in New York City. The Pellerin's had served as Children's and Student Ministry leaders before answering the call to missions. The church has ordained several men as deacons, and one man to the gospel ministry who has pastored in Hatcher Pass Association. Several members of FBC Palmer have

served in various roles in denominational entities, and the church was grateful to host the Alaska Baptist Resource Network annual meetings in 2008 and 2015.

First Baptist Church of Palmer looks to continued kingdom ministry in the days ahead as they seek to effectively fulfil the Great Commission calling: *First Baptist Church of Palmer exists to lead persons, to lead families, to be fully devoted followers of Jesus.*

Summary of history 1995-2021

- 1995 and 1996: Construction of a new church facility on Cobb Street under the leadership of Pastor Tim Clark; Moved into the new building in December 1996.
- July 1997: Bruce (Polly) Rowell and family were called as pastor from First Baptist Church of Oakwood, Georgia.



First Baptist Church; Palmer (cont.)

- April 2003: Sold the Cobb Street property to Fred Meyer Corp. and began relocation process.
- January 2004: Completed construction and took occupancy of Phase 1 of the East Helen Drive campus.
- February 2005: Completed construction and took occupancy of Phase 2 (Sanctuary) of the East Helen Drive campus. Dedicated the Sanctuary May 22, 2005.
- May 2014: Completed construction of Phase 3 (Family Ministry Center).
- Summer 2016: Began development of Friendship Park, a family park open to the community. Opened and dedicated the Park July 2018. Further development of the Park continues.



First Baptist Church Petersburg, Alaska

Date Begun: March 3, 1968

Date Constituted: October 20, 1970

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Ketchikan

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Lumberman-Road Builder

Bob Day (Dee), a lumberman and road builder, moved to Petersburg in early 1960. Immediately, Bob shared with First Baptist Church, Ketchikan, the need for a Baptist witness in Petersburg. The Ketchikan church surveyed Petersburg in the summer of 1961; however, it was seven years later (March 3, 1968) before the first service was held by Pastor/Missionary Don Wright (Kathy) with ten present. The Petersburg Mission was one of the Project 500 endeavors sponsored by the Home Mission Board and the First Baptist Church, Ketchikan.

Episcopal-Baptist Church

Don and Kathy Wright moved to the community of 2400 residents in September 1968. Several families met in Missionary Wright's home for fellowship and prayer. Sunday services were held in the Episcopal church building until 1976. During the years the church met there. The signs on the outside read: St. Andrews Episcopal Baptist Church.

Visitors often asked, "What is an Episcopal Baptist Church?" The First Baptist Church, Petersburg was constituted October 11, 1970. Pastor Don Wright resigned and the new church called Earl Midkiff (Shannon). He began his pastorate in January 1971 continuing until 1992. Beginning in 1976, the church met in the Petersburg Elementary School for about a year and a half.

First Baptist Church Building Constructed

In 1977, construction began on the new building using mostly volunteer workers. In July 1978 the first service was held in the new building. The building debt was paid off in 1994.

Prince of Wales Island Ministries

Coffman Cove Mission

In 1971, First Baptist Church, Petersburg, was invited to begin Sunday School and preaching services at Coffman Cove Logging Camp. This ministry, led by Pastor Earl Midkiff, was begun June 4, 1972, on an every-other-week basis. Valentine Log Company donated an old trailer house for Sunday School. Transportation off Prince of Wales Island was and is by float plane or by boat.

Coffman Cove was officially organized as a Baptist Mission on April 23, 1989, under the sponsorship of First Baptist Church, Petersburg, in this logging camp and small community of about 300 people. A two-story building was erected. Tom Nunley (Kay) is now pastor of this congregation of about 40-50 people who participate in Sunday School, morning and evening worship and Wednesday evening Bible study.

Craig Mission

Craig, located on Prince of Wales Island, is the fastest growing city in Southeast Alaska. It currently boasts a population of 2,000. Craig Preaching Point was begun by First Baptist Church, Petersburg, in July 1993, and Craig Baptist Mission was organized in November 1994 by church planter, Dean Blankenship (Nadine) who is serving as pastor. Baptist Sunday morning and evening services are held in the Seventh Day Adventist Church with an attendance of between 30-40 each week.

Naukati Preaching Point

Naukati, located on Prince of Wales Island, is a community of about 150 people. Dean Blankenship, church planter, recently established Naukati Preaching Point. On Thursday evening, some 20-25 people gather in the school building for worship and Bible study. This, too, is sponsored by First Baptist Church, Petersburg.

Corrections to the information printed in the 50th Anniversary History:

Bob and Dee Day moved to Petersburg in 1959. (Note: this correction was received from their daughter, Pam, who clearly remembers that they moved to Petersburg the year she was nine, the same year Alaska became a state).

The first service held in the building was a baptismal service on June 21, 1978. Regular use began July 1, 1978, and the dedication was held on Sunday afternoon, November 5, 1978.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

In 2007 sanctuary lighting was replaced and new carpet installed. A new entrance to the building was added to allow ground floor access in 2009 and chair lifts were installed in 2010. In 2015 the pews were replaced with chairs and a new Lord's Supper table and new piano were purchased.

Beginning in the spring of 1971, the church began reaching out to logging camps and villages with the gospel. Preaching points over the years included: Coffman Cove, Port Alice, Cape Pole, Whale Pass, Edna Bay, Labouchere Bay, Hobart Bay, Bradfield Canal, Point Protection, Point Baker, Nakauti, El Capitan and Klawock. To begin this ministry, Bob Day donated \$2000 to a travel fund, and since all offerings from the logging camps were deposited in this fund, it was never depleted in all the years this ministry continued. In 1986 this ministry was given the title “**Southeast Island Ministries**”; in 1993 sponsorship of SEIM was transferred from the church to Tongass Baptist Association with Dean Blankenship serving as a church planter for the association.

First Baptist sponsored three missions which became churches: Coffman Cove, Thorne Bay, and Craig. Community Baptist Church in Coffman Cove was constituted June 23, 1996, and Anchor Baptist Church in Craig in 2001. Thorne Bay Baptist Mission was constituted as a mission August 27, 1989; sponsorship was transferred to First Baptist Church Ketchikan in 1993 and it later constituted as a church.

Two couples associated with the church have served with the International Mission Board: Dan and Carol Hylden in Botswana and Thailand; Thora and Dave Broyles in Togo. Terry Kaelin left to serve with Youth with a Mission.

Two men were licensed to preach: Larry Baysinger in 1992 and Jim Williams in 2010.

A revised constitution was adopted in 2001. In 2014, four amendments were added to the church constitution and William Earl Midkiff was named Pastor Emeritus.

The deacons who are serving presently are Mike Cottrell, Butch Young, Tim Wilkinson, and Kurt Wohlhueter

The church gives 10 percent to the Cooperative Program, four percent to Tongass Baptist Association and emphasizes prayer and the offerings for international missions, North American missions and state missions through the showing of videos and the reading of Missionary Highlights.

Ministeries through the years have included:

AWANA – an outreach to children (1992-2000)
CAMPS – an outreach to children held at Vank Island and Emmaeus Center (1981-1987)
FISHNET – a ministry to cannery workers (1989-1991)
LATCHKEY- a program for after school care (1985- 1987)
MEALS ON MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY – an outreach to the community (2010 – present)
MEN’S PRAYER BREAKFAST ON ALTERNATE SATURDAYS (2015 – present)
MOPS – a ministry to mothers of preschoolers (1983 – 1993)
PRAYER ON MONDAY NIGHT – (2015 – present)
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – 120 boxes packed in 2019
TEAMKID – an outreach to children (2005 – 2017)
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - an outreach to children (1971 to present)

Pastors Who Have Served

Mission Pastor

Donald Edward Wright (Kathy) 1968-1970;

Church Pastors:

William Earl Midkiff (Shannon) January 1971- May 1992

Ralph Duddles (Sally) (October 1992- October 2002;

Donald Higgins (Nancy) April 2004- October 2017;

Interims:

Marshall Duncan (Julia) April – December 2003

William Earl Midkiff (Shannon) July 2009 – March 2010 and October - December 2017

Don Hayhurst (Carolyn) January – December 2018

Bill Messer (Sharon) January – June 2019.

In 2017, Pastor Don Higgins submitted his resignation because the severity of his medical condition no longer allowed him to pastor. In the interim between pastors worship service attendance average was in the 50s and Sunday School attendance in the 40s. There were 48 resident members. The church’s 50th anniversary is being celebrated in 2020.

Lee (Karla) Corrao was called as pastor December 6, 2020. He and his wife have lived in Petersburg a number of years.

First Baptist Church

Sitka, Alaska

Date Begun: January 8, 1956

Date Constituted: January 9, 1957

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Juneau

1986; Ted Bostick, 1987-1991; Timothy E. Miller, 1992-1994; David T. Carpenter, 1995-Present.

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Women Put Feet to Their Prayers

In late November 1955, Clara Phillips, a nurse at Mt Edgcombe Hospital and Nancy Hill, a clerk typist at the same institution, were praying earnestly about the possibility of starting a Baptist church in Sitka. There were other Baptists in Sitka also praying for work to begin. Clara and Nancy put feet to their prayers by contacting Roy Huff, a painter and lay-preacher. Together, they set a date to begin the first meeting. In the meantime, the women had contacted L.A. Watson, Executive Secretary of Alaska Baptist Convention, to find out the procedure for establishing a Baptist church.

On Sunday evening, January 8, 1956, the first meeting was held in the Sitka Women's Club room with seven people present and Roy Huff serving as moderator. The seven decided to meet regularly on Sunday evenings and on Wednesday evenings.

Baptist Mission

L.A. Watson spent several days in Sitka in May 1956. While he was there, the group organized into a Baptist Mission under the sponsorship of First Baptist Church, Juneau. Roy Huff served as moderator pro tem until summer missionary Leroy Springfield arrived in June 1956 to help organize the mission.

First Baptist Church, Sitka

The mission constituted as First Baptist Church, Sitka, on August 5, 1956, with 25 charter members. For three years, the church met in the Women's Club Building. In January 1957, the Home Mission Board gave the church a gift lien which enabled the new church to purchase three lots for a future church site. Dale Proctor was called as the first pastor in May 1957, but he served only a few months.

During Dick Miller's pastorate (1961-69) he worked extensively with the students of Mt. Edgcombe Native Boarding School. The Millers and the John Dickersons (1973-76) also worked with Japanese families in the community, and a special Sunday School class was provided using tapes by Pastor Kuniho Watanabe in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Pastor Neal Baker (1970-72) led the church to start their first logging camp outreach. There were 52 camps from Ketchikan to Haines and Skagway, and Pastor Baker wrote each camp asking if they would be interested in having a Vacation Bible School at no expense to the camp. As a result, two summer missionaries conducted VBS at False Island, Clear Creek Camp, Port Alice and Camp Hope. In 1972, the First Baptist Church, Sitka, voted to set aside \$50 a month for the Logging Camp Ministry and First Baptist Church, Petersburg, voted to match that amount. Frank Sisson served as Logging Camp Pastor.

Building Programs

On July 7, 1958, the church broke ground to begin their first building program. At that time there were 63 names on the church roll. The church continued growing, and in 1981 the church voted to enlarge its facilities. The worship area was enlarged, three new classrooms were added, a baptistry installed and the building was carpeted throughout. The renovated, enlarged building was dedicated November 11, 1983. Since then new pews have been purchased and installed.

Pastors Who Have Served

There have been 10 men who have served the church in its 40 year history. They are: Dale Proctor, 1957; Jay James (interim), 1957-1958; James Samples, 1958-1961; Richard (Dick) Miller, 1961-1969; Neal Baker, 1970-1972; John Dickerson, 1973-1976; Bill Branch, 1976-

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Pastors:

2018-Present = Cliff Day
2016-2017 = Darvin Jordan
2014-2016 = Interim Jerry Cooper
2003-2014 = Kerry Chadwick
2001-2003 = William Branch
2000-2001 = Dan Grisham
1999-2000 = Interim Earl Midkiff
1998-1999 = Claude Williams
1995-1998 = David Carpenter

First Baptist Church of Sitka has had a rich ministry in the community on Baranof Island. In 2018 they felt God's call to fulfill the Biblical mission to reach the lost, disciple believers to maturity, and to love God and others in Sitka, Alaska, and the world. To accomplish that mission First Baptist has had an exciting and active Vacation Bible School annually. With Pastor Kerry Chadwick, the church operated Celebrate Recovery and many other outreach and discipleship programs. Since Pastor Cliff Day was called, there have been a Lighthouse Outreach, Who's Your One?, Personal FAITH, Pray and Go, and other outreach discipleship events resulting in the blessing of multiple baptisms. In an effort to be an active part of the community, church members held an all-age-groups fall festival, performed multiple Lighthouse community projects on a home for those in need in the community, and operated free meals for the homeless program. To fulfill Acts 1:8 the church sponsors Hoonah Mission and in 2016 sent a mission team to replace a roof. Currently there are mission trips planned for 2020 and beyond.

First Baptist Church, Sitka disciples believers to maturity through multiple discipleship programs and in-depth verse by verse Biblical teaching. They encourage and pray every attendee will continue to move closer to Jesus in their daily lives. Finally, they love God and others through great fellowship where they celebrated their 50 year anniversary in 2007 with special guest Leroy Springer (Summer Missionary who helped constitute the church) and a meal at the Coast Guard Gazebo. In 2017 they had a great BBQ celebration of their 60 year anniversary on the grounds. The church thank and praise God for the many lives changed through their ministry over the years and are praying God will use them as a light in a lost city, state, and world.

Note: Currently, with Covid-19 they continue to accomplish their mission with Online Live Biblical Worship, Discipleship through online Bible Studies, prayer meetings, and Loving with online fellowship.



First Baptist Church

Soldotna, Alaska

Date Begun: June 1959

Date Constituted: November 25, 1964

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Anchorage

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Homesteaders Concerned

First Baptist Church, Soldotna, had its beginning in the hearts of some homesteaders who felt there should be a Christian witness in Soldotna. With the encouragement of L.A. Watson, Executive Secretary of Alaska Baptist Convention, the first meeting of these homesteaders was held in the home of E.L. Jackson located on Kalifornsky Beach Road. Interested families were the Granges, Jacksons, Regers, and the Edmund Knutsens.

VBS - TENT- 1958

With the help of two summer missionaries, Jean Brumlow, Alice Jackson, and Shirley Lounsbury held the first Vacation Bible School in 1958 in a tent pitched on the corner of Sterling Highway and Kalifornsky Beach Road. And it all began on this wise!

A Dilapidated Quonset Hut

The Home Mission Board purchased a rather dilapidated quonset hut, and it was placed in the M.L. "Red" Grange Family Lumber Yard. The Edwards and Granges repaired and painted the building. On the second Sunday morning in June 1959, nine people gathered for the first worship service. By the end of June a departmentalized Sunday School of 30-35 people was in operation. In July, a two-week VBS was held with approximately 75 enrolled. Most of the VBS faculty were from Wildwood Army Base. By the end of the summer, attendance had increased to about 50, and eight to ten persons had made professions of faith and were baptized.

First Permanent Building

In April 1962, Maurice and Ruth Murdock moved to Soldotna to help R.B. Wood (Ruth's brother) homestead. Murdock purchased a sawmill to build a church and three homes. During the summer of 1963, work was begun on the log structure. Logs for the church came from the homesteads of E.L. Jackson, Edmund Knutsen, H.A.



"Sonny" Burnette and Ivan Solheim. The building was completed in time for the first service of the Simultaneous Revival on October 20.

First Baptist Church, Soldotna

On November 26, 1963, the mission was constituted as First Baptist Church, Soldotna, with 24 members present for the organization-

al meeting. Dr. Felton Griffin, pastor of the sponsoring church, was guest preacher for the service. The church immediately extended a call to Maurice Murdock to be pastor, and he served until July 1966. The church sponsored a kindergarten for five years (1964-69) with Ruth H. Murdock, Gloria Colvin and Mary Abbott as teachers.

Under the leadership of pastor W.E. Midkiff, the church property was doubled and a new two-story structure was completed with layman James Boney from Texas as building supervisor. During Don Tallison's pastorate, the church built a home for the Pastor and a home for the Music-Youth Director. The Bob Wortham family donated a tennis court adaptable to other sports, and Ruth Murdock assisted with the Murdock Memorial addition. As the need arose, a Seminary Extension Class, a Literacy Missions Ministry, a Bus Ministry, and a Puppet Ministry were begun.

In November 1992, the church held a "Note Burning Ceremony" on the parking lot in celebration of having paid off the Home Mission Board loan on the building.

Missions Begun

The First Baptist Church, Soldotna, has sponsored three missions. When First Baptist Church, Seward, voted to go back to mission status, Soldotna assumed sponsorship until 1981, at which time First Baptist, Kenai, became the sponsor. At that time, Soldotna took the sponsorship of the mission at Homer and the Preaching Point at Hope. Fred Parnell was instrumental in beginning both of these works.

Pastors Who Have Served

On April 11, 1993, Dr. Waylan B. Owens (Betsy), from Crosby, Mississippi, was called as pastor and is currently serving in this capacity. Other pastors who have ministered through First Baptist Church are: Edward E. Wolfe (Helen), 1987-1992; Don Tallison (Vivian) 1971-1987; Earl Midkiff (Shannon), 1966-1971; Maurice Murdock (Ruth), 1962-1966; James Simmons, military man who commuted from Anchorage, 1961-1962; James Rose, 1960-61.

Other church staff who have served the church are: Minister of Music/Youth, Marvin McBee, 1979-82; Minister of Music/ Education, Stephan J. Wilks, 1984-88; Interim Director of Youth/ Education, Linda Hokit, 1989; Minister of Education/Youth, Mac Burrell, 1989-93; Music Director, Laura Burrell, 1990-93.

Cheryl Thompson was elected as part-time secretary in February 1993 and full-time secretary in 1994.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Mission House and Mission Teams:

Many people have used the Mission House and First Baptist Church, Soldotna (FBCS) is grateful to have a facility to offer.

Corey and Ashley McGee and their three sons lived in the mission house from 2013-2014. Corey was sponsored by a South Carolina church to serve as Worship/Youth Leader.

IMB missionaries, Aliro and LaRissa Silva and their family, lived there September 2014 to May 2015. While on furlough, they helped the church as worship leader and conducted a Hispanic Bible study.

Alaska Missions has used the mission house and church building to house three teams a year to help with Salmon Frenzy. Each team had 35 to 50 members. Some of the teams have returned for seven years, requesting to stay at FBCS. Church members cooked breakfast for each team and the favorites were breakfast burritos and blueberry or pecan pancakes.

First Baptist Church; Soldotna (cont.)

Church Members:

Tommye Jo Corr is the only charter member still attending First Baptist Church, Soldotna. Her 90th birthday was celebrated August 25, 2019, after morning worship. All of her children and many other family and friends honored her with cards, gifts and memories. Tommye Jo enjoyed all the memories but especially enjoyed the cake.

Fred Bennett, a church member and retired preacher, preached on his 90th birthday at First Baptist Church, Soldotna. Many of his family were in attendance.

Clothes 4 U:

For several years, the church held a clothing give a way two Saturdays a month.

Youth Camp:

Contagious Camp for 7-12 grades was started by Pastor Doug Burrows the summer of 2012 and is still going.

Mission Church:

FBCS sponsored New Beginnings, a mission in Seward, until it constituted into a church.

50th Anniversary of FBCS:

FBCS celebrated their 50th anniversary on August 3, 2014. The first full time pastor, Earl Midkiff, was the guest preacher for the occasion. A fried chicken dinner was served in the log building that was the first permanent home of FBCS.

Pastors:

- Waylon (Betsy) Owens, 1995-1998.
- Jonathan (Murfi) Pedersen, 1998-2003.
- Doug (Kecia) Burrows 2012-2014
- Keith (JoAnne) Longo, 2018-present

Many other events and highlights of FBCS took place and helped the church to become what it is today, a church where people are wanted, needed and loved.



First Baptist Church Valdez, Alaska

Date Begun: August 17, 1952

Date Constituted: 1953; reconstituted November 25, 1964

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Public Health Nurse Concerned

Ethel Lindley, a Baptist public health nurse, was living in Valdez in 1952 and was concerned that there was no Baptist church there. Ethel contacted the Chugach Baptist Association office for help in starting a Baptist mission and in securing a pastor. Jimmy Rose, a pastor-builder living near Fort Worth, Texas, was invited to come and look over the area. John Defoore, pastor of Calvary Church, Anchorage, and Valeria Sherard, associational missionary, helped Jimmy Rose in surveying the area. They discovered a number of people who were interested in starting a Baptist mission. Brother Rose felt this was what God wanted him to do, so in July 1952 he began the Baptist witness in Valdez. Calvary Baptist Church, Anchorage, agreed to sponsor this new work.

Congregational Church Building Bought

The Home Mission Board, SBC, purchased the old Congregational Church building which had been built in 1900 and needed many repairs. After a major clean-up effort by Brother Rose and others, the first service was held on August 17, 1952, with only a handful of people attending.

Gravel Pit Baptism

Brother Rose was an energetic hard worker, and the Lord blessed his efforts. The first baptismal service was held in a gravel pit in August with nine candidates baptized. Pastor Rose never got out of the water until the last candidate was baptized, and because the water was so cold he was nearly frozen. It took hours to get his legs warmed.

Church Builds Log Building

In the summer of 1953, the city of Valdez condemned the old Congregational Building, and plans were made to build a new log building.

Because of his carpentry skills, Brother Rose planned the building, gathered the building materials and did much of the work on the construction. The building was ready in time to have the Christmas program in it that year. In 1955, the Alaska Baptist Convention was held in the log church building of First Baptist Church.

Laymen Take Turns Leading Services

When Jimmy Rose resigned as pastor in December of 1956, there was no supply pastor available, so the men of the church, Dick Shafer, Doc Jenkins, Herman Londigan and David Kennedy, took turns preaching until the new pastor came. Rev. J.W. T. Stewart from Texas became pastor September 8, 1957, and left May 3, 1958. After nine difficult months, the Stewarts didn't show up for Prayer Service on a Wednesday evening. Someone went to check on them and found that they had left town. The church was stunned, to say the least. Again, the laymen took turns leading the services.

March 27, 1964 Earthquake

The city of Valdez was devastated by the Good Friday earthquake that shook all of Southcentral Alaska, and the Baptist Church sustained considerable damage from the quake and the water. For a couple of weeks they met with the Assembly of God church, whose pastor had died in the quake. Brother Rose decided the Baptist church building could be repaired, and everyone rejoiced when they could again worship in the log building. The Roses left Valdez for the second time in July 1964.

New Church Building in New Townsite

Construction on a new church building in "New Valdez" was begun June 12, 1966. The first service was held in the educational wing on September 10, 1967, and in the new sanctuary on April 15, 1968.

A contractor was hired to put in the basement, walls and roof but the rest of the construction work was done mostly by volunteers. For three years the hours of work were many and the labor was hard but it was

worth it all to finally have a spacious, comfortable, new church home. During the pastorate of Gene Medaris (Jane) a major remodeling project of the building added beauty, improved accessibility and gave much new space to the growing congregation.

Construction of Pipeline

The construction of the pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez brought rapid growth and the challenge of many new people to be reached with the Gospel. Several new ministries were begun, including a “book ministry” to the construction camps and Bible studies in homes. Leonard Everman was pastor throughout the building of the pipeline, and the church experienced exciting growth. Leonard was a rather new Christian and inexperienced pastor when he came to Valdez. To get much needed training, he enrolled in Alaska Bible College in Glennallen where he stayed all week. On weekends he came home to perform pastoral duties. Through contacts at the school, Leonard began a “Internship Program” in 1974 using students from the college as associates.

Additional space was needed in the new building, so another building program was begun to finish the basement which would provide classroom space, kitchen, bathrooms with showers and fellowship hall. Another big building project was the construction of a much needed parsonage, since affordable housing had always been a problem for pastors.

Community Outreach Ministries

While Leonard Everman was pastor, he led the church to hold an annual “Pastor-Layman Conference.” These were exciting times and were well attended because there was always a well known guest speaker. Leonard was pastor for nine years, 1970-1979, when he resigned to enter Golden Gate Seminary.

During the pastorate of Glenn Willis, the church started a “Friday night feed program” in the summers for people who had no work or money. This became quite an undertaking, as each Friday night many people came to eat. This ministry had started as a cooperative effort between all



the churches. However, First Baptist Church carried the major part of the responsibility. The cannery workers were so appreciative, and everyone enjoyed the home cooked meals. The summer after the “Valdez Oil Spill,” the church fed well over 300 people each Friday night. The “Friday night feed” continued until the 1992 when building renovations began.

Mountain View Mission Begun at Kenny Lake

In 1977, First Baptist Church, Valdez, started a mission at Kenny Lake. With much work and lots of prayer, a nice church building was erected. Lane Olson, Outreach and Visitation Pastor was the overseer of this work for several years. The building was dedicated on February 24, 1980.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Pastors Who Have Served

On October 29, 1995, Pastor Glen Little (Nancy) was installed as the church’s tenth pastor, coming to this position after having served as Director of Missions for Hatcher Pass Association for the past nine years. Others pastors who have served the church are: Gene (Jane) Medaris, 1990-1995; Glenn Willis, 1984-1989; Paul Hussey, 1979-1984;

Leonard Everman (Marsha) 1970-1979; Lester Bonner, 1968-1970; Frank Sisson, 1964-1967; James Rose, 1963-1964 (second tenure); William (Bill) Hansen) 1960-1962; J.W.T. Stewart, 1957-1958; James Rose 1952-1956. Others who served the church as interims are: James Lamie, Horace and Elizabeth Burns and Don Herman.

An on-going ministry that started in 1991 has been the “Chapel of the Sea” boat ministry. The LuLu Belle is a tour boat that makes daily trips to Columbia Glacier and is owned and operated by Fred and Megan Rodolf. They donate the use of their boat early each Sunday



morning during the summer for a short church service on Valdez Bay.

Another continuing ministry is the Ladies Christmas Tea that began in 1974 in the home of a member but has expanded to the Civic Center where there are up to 250 ladies who each year hear the plan of salvation.

Glen Little and wife, Nancy, came in 1995 and led the church more years than any other pastor—until 2008. Glen is a strong people person and enjoyed taking others out on his boat “Visitation” not only to fish but to point them toward the Lord. He won the trust of the Coast Guard so that they chose him to be their chaplain. He also served as chaplain for the Providence Valdez Medical Center. Nancy began a children’s church during the Sunday morning worship time. In 2002 Nancy began a quilting group who made a quilt each Christmas for each young person living at the Family Service Center in Anchorage; this continued until Glen and Nancy moved away.

It seems that our pastors posed a particular problem for Satan, as our pastors and families seemed to be particularly in Satan’s crosshairs. Pastor Gene Medaris’ wife, Jane, in September 1993 suffered a major cardiac arrest. She was medevaced to Anchorage where she was in a coma for several days. In Valdez, a special prayer service for her was held with people from all the churches in attendance. Almost immediately she started coming out of the coma and slowly regained health. It was because of her need to be nearer medical care that Pastor Gene resigned on July 1, 1995.

On December 2002, Nancy Little was involved in an automobile accident that left her paralyzed from the chest down. The men of the church immediately made the parsonage handicap-accessible and later made the changes necessary at the church building. An elevator was installed in 2007. It was due to Nancy’s need to be closer to medical care that Pastor Glen resigned on July 1, 2008, and they moved to Palmer where he became pastor of Bodenburg Butte Baptist Church.

In August 2012 the 60th anniversary of the church was celebrated; almost all of the former pastors still living were in attendance, including Leonard Everman, Lane Olson (assistant pastor), Glenn Willis, Gene Medaris, and Glen Little. Paul Hussey was unable to attend but sent a video message to the church. Also attending were many out-of-town former members including Charles Cardine who made many trips to Valdez from Virginia to help with the remodeling of the church and also to cook for the Friday Night Feeds.

Chad Richardson and family pastored from 2008 until 2013 when he resigned to pastor a church in Texas.

First Baptist Church; Valdez (cont.)

David Bradley and his family came in 2014 as pastor after serving in the US Navy as a chaplain with the North American Mission Board. He and his wife, Cindy, previously served overseas as missionaries with the International Mission Board. David also ministers as a volunteer Coast Guard chaplain, continues the Chapel of the Sea worship service, as well as conducts a Sunday afternoon service for the residents of Providence Extended Care. David's style of preaching is that of expository teaching. This gives the church "verse by verse, passage by passage, book by book" instruction.

Pastors Who Have Served

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| James H. Rose | 1952-1956 |
| Don Herman, Interim Pastor | 1995 |
| Glen Little | 1995-2008 |
| Gene Medaris, Interim Pastor | 2008 |
| Chad Richardson | 2008-2013 |
| David Bradley | 2014-Present |

First Baptist Church Wasilla, Alaska

Date Begun: June 18, 1978

Date Constituted: June 1982; reconstituted August 20, 1986

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Birchwood

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Beginning

How does a church get started? Does it just happen? No, a church is started because God's people are mission-minded. At First Baptist Church of Birchwood, Pastor Bob Chadwick was mission-minded, having served as a missionary on Afognak Island. The Birchwood church began to pray and talk about the need for a mission in Wasilla. In March of 1978, First Baptist Church, Birchwood, voted to start a mission in Wasilla and called Paul Carter of Louisiana as mission pastor. Pastor Carter arrived on the field and the first service was held on Father's Day 1978. What better day to begin a new work for the Heavenly Father?

Temporary Meeting Places

The first meeting place was in a music store owned by a member of First Baptist Church, Birchwood. Meetings were held there for a couple of months and soon the mission outgrew this space. The church then met in a hangar at Chuck Jackson's on Fairview Loop Road. Services were held there until December when services were moved to the AIC building on Lake Lucille. Those were happy days.

Property Purchased and First Unit Building Constructed

Early in the summer of 1979, ground breaking services were held on the Bogard Road property. The Alaska Baptist Convention had purchased the land in anticipation of starting a mission and First Baptist Church, Birchwood, assumed the loan. With the help of the members from Birchwood, the foundation for the first building was laid. Then in October 1979, a work crew of 10 men from Alabama and North Carolina arrived to erect the building. In just four and a half days the small building at the rear of the present auditorium was closed in and under roof. However, there was still a lot of work to do and needless to say there were a lot of workdays and work nights. The first Sunday in January 1980, the first service was held in the basement. The building was completely paid for. The only debt was the note on the land, but there were not funds to complete the upstairs until March of 1982. Then in June 1982 -Father's Day -the church was constituted. Father's Day will always be special for First Baptist, Wasilla, since it was begun on Father's Day and also constituted as a church on Father's Day.

The small building was finally bulging at the seams and in 1985, a step of faith was taken and a building program launched to construct the present sanctuary. The sanctuary was completed in 1986. However, fellowship hall and classrooms were finished much later. The first service held in the new sanctuary was on Easter Sunday 1986. This church, like all churches, has had growing pains and has become stronger for it. The first Vacation Bible School was held in the summer of 1979 and has become an annual event for the church.

Pastors Who Have Served

Paul Carter was the first pastor and served one year. Edward E. Wolfe, DOM for Chugach Association, served as interim pastor until John Land was called in 1980. He served one year and following his resignation, Ron Ratliff served as interim until Al Allen was called in early 1982. Following his resignation, Gary Godwin served as interim until James (Jim) Heam (Brenda) was called in January 1983. Jim served as pastor until January 1989. Pastor Heam resigned to become a missionary to Togo, West Africa.

Jim Hamilton served as interim until Jim Eller was called in July 1989 and served until July 1992. Marshall Duncan served as interim until the current pastor, Fred Stroud, was called in August 1993.

In January 1985, Randy Covington (Robin) was called as Minister of Music and Youth. He served until June of 1991 when he resigned to return to seminary. Later Randy and Robin were appointed as missionaries to Russia.

In the summer of 1989, the church purchased the house next to the church and it now serves as the parsonage for the pastor.

Mission Outreach Begun

In November 1994, a Bible study was begun at Laverne Griffin Youth Camp with the dream of beginning a mission in that area. By the summer of 1995, under the direction of Larry and Sharon Hale, attendance had grown to over 80 each week. The Wasilla church is presently searching and praying for property to build a mission building.

First Baptist Church, Wasilla, is centering attention on the mandate of Christ to go into the community and reach the lost here. There is a new excitement of growth with over 105 decisions last year. The church is planning for future expansion, growing in maturity and experiencing God. Eventually the church hopes to enlarge the present auditorium, build a multipurpose gym and enlarge the educational space. Plans also include beginning another mission Bible study in 1996.

Three men in the church are ordained: Jim Edmonds, Del Mitchell, and Lane Olson. There are two young men, Brad Ingram and Michael Bourasaw, who have acknowledged God's call to full time ministry. The church hopes to use these men in God's work in the Wasilla area.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

First Baptist Church of Wasilla took a giant step of faith in November of 2000 and purchased twenty-six acres of land for a new multipurpose facility including Sanctuary, Education Complex, and Multipurpose gym on Seward Meridian at the intersection of Palmer-Wasilla Highway. The church is currently in prayerful consideration of how that property can first be used to meet the needs of their community.

When the church sign by the street died in 2017, it was upgraded to an electronic message board to not only promote church ministries, but also to provide a spiritual message along Bogard Road.

Pastors who have served

Fred Stroud, called in 1993, served until August of 2007. Stephen Shrimplin served as interim until the church called him as pastor in January of 2010. He resigned late in 2020.

Additional staff members

Starting in the Spring of 1997, Mike Bourasaw and Brad Ingram served a short time as Associate Pastors. In December of 1999, the church called Sterling Lynn to become its Minister to Youth and Evangelism. Sterling resigned in July of 2001. In August of 2001, the church called Stephen Shrimplin to be its Minister of Music and Worship leader. Stephen served in that capacity until August of 2007. In June of 2003, the church called John Richardson to serve as its Pastor to Students. He served in that capacity until February of 2006. In March of 2008, the church called Michael Graham to be an Associate Pastor, and he served until April of 2011. In May of 2011, the church called Brad Herndon as the interim Music leader, and in September he became the Youth and Music pastor, and served until June of 2012. In July of 2016, Luke Jones began serving as a Minister of Worship Arts Intern until September of 2017 when the church called him to be the Minister of Worship Arts. He serves in this position currently. In the Spring of 2019, the church called Daniel Shrimplin as a Student Ministry Intern, as a part of his studies at Alaska Bible College. He currently serves in that position.

Servants called to ministry

Through the years, the Lord has used First Baptist, Wasilla, to raise up and launch many people into various ministries. Those who have been called, ordained, licensed, trained, or launched into some type of ministry or mission work include: Randy Covington, Rodney Kovty-novich, Scott Coffman, Jim Hearn, Brad Ingram, Michael Bourasaw, John Meidinger, Steve Serben, Ginger Prescott, Brad Green, Mike Shar-row, Brad Whitworth, Scott Warnberg, Doug Janneck, Jonna Dompier/Clark, Jaime Schaefer, Scott Thompson, Michael Graham, Mitchell Slater, Myron Severson, and Daniel Shrimplin.

Community Outreach Ministries

First Baptist Church of Wasilla understands the importance of being involved in the community. The very first Vacation Bible School was held in the summer of 1979. This annual event has since grown to over 250 students. Other community events have included: a food pantry, Christmas candle-light services, fall festivals, Easter egg hunts, literacy school, concerts, men's/women's Bible studies, home Bible studies, RA's, GA's, Mission Friends, Trail Life, FAITH outreach ministry, community picnics, dinner theaters, musicals and pageants, quilting, AWANA ministry, JAM (Jesus, Arts, and Music) camp, Christ in the Passover celebrations, karate classes, train show, LEGO club, Youth Fun Fellowships, caroling and cinnamon rolls, parking lot parade for graduates, and much more.

Missions

First Baptist Church of Wasilla is a mission-minded church. In addition to supporting the Cooperative Program and various Southern Baptist offerings, the church has also been involved in other local missions works such as starting an area-wide Bible study based out of Laverne Griffin Camp, assisting with the start of Schrock Road Mission, helping to establish Wasilla Korean Baptist Church, actively supporting Heart-Reach Center, helping to launch Faith Recovery Fellowship, providing curriculum for Adult/Teen Challenge, partnering with GraceWorks ministry in Wonderland Park and Williwaw neighborhood, distributing scriptures while participating in parades, and serving popcorn at the Mayor's Picnic. State missions projects have included: ministering in Buckland through VBS, Christmas boxes, celebration of life, and youth camps; sponsoring mission churches/preaching points in Dillingham, King Salmon, Ekwok, Tetlin, Kobuk, Ambler, Egegik, Nome, and Selewik; supporting correctional facility ministries at Goose Creek, Hiland Mountain, Mat-Su Pre-trial, and Palmer; supporting Anchor-

age Gospel Rescue Mission and Alaska Baptist Family Services, and helping to start The Butte Gathering. Global missions work has included: Shine with Christ and New Hope medical and prison ministries in Uganda; sending missions teams to Russia, Greece, Uganda, Guatemala, and China; and personally adopting an SBC missionary in a restricted country.

Vision

In 2011, the church staff, deacons, and wives went on a 3-day retreat for the sole purpose of seeking a clear vision for the church. Out of that retreat, they forged a new vision statement and slogan for the church, "Loving God, Serving Others, and Making Disciples." Details of the rest of the vision statement and core values are available on their web-site.

2020 will be remembered as the year of the coronavirus and Covid-19. First Baptist Church is learning how to weather a world-wide pandemic, and to minister to the community in unique ways. These include starting an online worship service and other videos on YouTube, ramping up social media presence, staying in touch with each other through phone, text, Zoom, front-porch visits, and however else possible, and being creative in how to do ministry, like hosting a "Parking Lot Parade" to honor this year's graduates.

Whatever the future may bring, First Baptist Church, Wasilla is committed to continuing to let the light of Jesus shine brightly through the community, and around the world.



First Baptist Church

Willow, Alaska

Date Begun: January 1, 1978

Date Constituted: January 8, 1978; reconstituted March 17, 1986

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

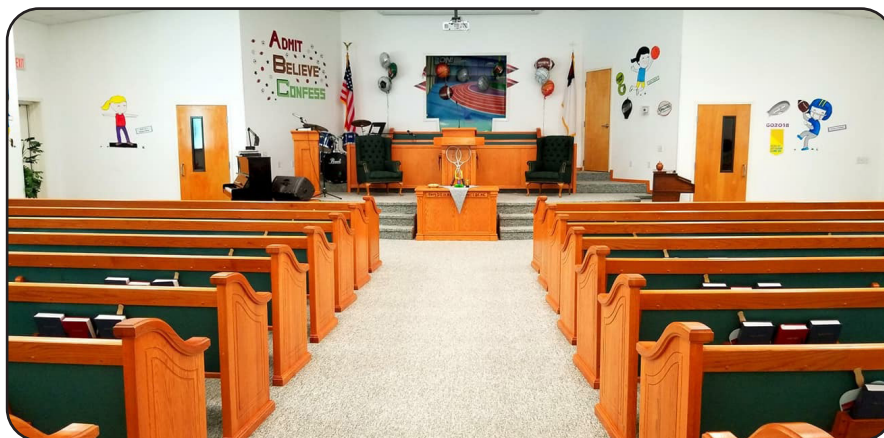
Beginning

First Baptist Church, Willow, began on January 1, 1978, with a meeting held on the homestead of Charles Brock at Mile 79.5 on the Parks Highway. On January 8, 1978, the first service was held at Big Lake Baptist Mission. A school teacher Virgil Holcomb was the first pastor. Charter members were William L. and Ruby Murphy, Virgil and Virginia Holcomb and Joe Jr. and Louise Spain.



Property Purchased and Building Erected

Land was purchased on Long Lake Road through the Chugach Baptist Association. The Home Mission Board sent five summer missionaries - Charles Houghton, Gary Harmon, Mike Matheny, Kyle Hancock and Tim Floyd - to assist in building the present structure. On November 26, 1978, the building was dedicated to



the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastors and Interim Pastors

First Baptist Church, Willow, has had 14 men to serve as pastor or interim pastor in its 18-year history. They are Virgil Holcomb, Charles Rose, Ron Cortlever, Jim Tunnel, Ed Greig, Lane Olson, J.W. Hart, Charles Brock, Ira Alley, David Burk, M. Brant O'Connor, Glen Little, Robert Carpenter and Dawson Lindblom.

Church Growth and Recognitions

The church continues to grow; currently the average attendance on Sunday mornings is in the fifties. On special occasions the crowd overflows into the basement, and down the ramp (constructed in 1994). The church has held Vacation Bible School every summer since 1978, with the highest attendance being 68 in 1984. Several church members completed the "Experiencing God" study during the winter of 1994-95.

First Baptist Church, Willow, received a "Certificate of Recognition" from the Alaska Baptist Convention in January 1994 in recognition of a ratio of one baptism to 4.57 members. Dawson Lindblom served as interim pastor beginning in October 1991 and was called as pastor January 1992. Dawson and wife Yvonna live in Eagle River. Dawson retired in 1994 as Chief Pilot with Northern Air Cargo.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

First Baptist Church, Willow has been an active church over the years. They have partnered with a church in the Lower 48 to provide vans for ministries that have a need for them.

Charles Worthy became pastor of the church in 2000. He retired in October of 2020 and was called Home to be with the Lord in December of that year.

Jordan (Hannah) Rowe became pastor October 1, 2020.

First Hmong Baptist Church

Anchorage, Alaska

Date Constituted: October 5, 2009

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

The current pastor is Priestley (Moua) Lee. Until the Covid-19 pandemic the First Hmong Baptist Church was meeting in the Grandview Baptist Church building.

First Korean Baptist Church

Anchorage, Alaska

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Date Begun: December 24, 1979

Date Constituted: February 16, 1983

Sponsoring Church: Grandview Baptist Church, Anchorage

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Literacy Missions

In 1979, Grandview Baptist Church became concerned about providing an enlarged ministry to the growing number of Koreans attending the English and Citizenship classes meeting at Grandview. Also more and more Koreans were attending the International

Friends Sunday School class and eight Koreans had already accepted Christ and had been baptized into the membership of the church. Chin Sun Stephenson, a member of Grandview, was the first person to voice the dream that

someday the Koreans in Anchorage could have their own Baptist church and Korean pastor. Pastor Clifford McConnell, led the Grandview Church to pray for God's leadership in this matter. In November, a pastor was called and on Christmas Eve, 1979, the first service of the Korean Baptist Mission was held at the Fairview Baptist Center building at 13th and Karluk, Anchorage.

Anchorage Korean First Baptist Mission

Woo Bong Chang, Jong Ku Yu and Sung Pil Kim pastored the Korean Mission during its first four years. In August 1982, the Calvary Mission Team of Berendo Street Baptist Church, Los Angeles, came to assist the mission for one month. This dynamic team of eight young adults led by Deacon Suk Young Lee, conducted Vacation Bible School for 30 children, did house to house visitation and provided special music for revival services in the evening. The pas-

tor's wife of Berendo Street Church, Ahn En Suk, was guest speaker for the revival services which were attended by 75-100.

During the early history of the mission, five men served as interim pastor. They were: Pastor Clifford S. McConnell, Deacon Hee Young Oh, Pastor Richard Miller and Student Pastors, Young Park and Song Taek Kim.

Jinsoo Lee (Chi Soon) was installed as the fourth pastor of the mission on January 27, 1985, with only a few of the original members still attending. During his pastorate, Pastor Lee began a tape ministry to Koreans living in remote areas of Alaska. He also travelled to Fairbanks to conduct home Bible study for Koreans related to Friendship Mission. Michael Kim was ordained as a deacon and served faithfully until he rotated with the Army.

Woo Bong Chang returned to pastor the mission in 1987. For a period of time, Jim Kim directed the Sunday School and Jane Kim led the choir. Attendance grew to 70 in Sunday School and the choir provided beautiful worship music each Sunday. Following a period of decline, Pastor Chang resigned.

First Korean Baptist Church, Anchorage

Jong Duct Lee (Jenny) was called as pastor of the mission in December 1990. The Korean Mission was constituted on March 22, 1992, as First Korean Baptist Church, Anchorage. Major improvements have been made on the old original Fairview Baptist Church building since the Korean Mission was begun.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Rev. Jeane Lee, the eighth pastor of First Korean Baptist Church, was called to that position in 2004. His wife is Kyoung Sun Choi.

The church works to strengthen the Church and supports world missions. They have sponsored several mission trips: June 2000, Romania; 2009, Indonesia; 2014, Jordan, France and the United Kingdom; 2015, 2016 and 2017, Dominica and Haiti; 2018, Cuba Vision Trip; 2019, Brazil and Argentina Vision Trip; 2019, Vietnam; 2020, Israel. Each of these trips included a variety of activities which included Sunday schools, Vacation Bible Schools, preaching, evangelism, revival rallies, youth rallies, seminars at theological seminaries, pastor seminars, and lectures.



2019 mission trip to Vietnam



Mission trip to the Dominican Republic



First Korean Baptist Church

First Native Baptist Church

Anchorage, Alaska

Date Begun: April 19, 1953

Date Constituted: July 1985; reconstituted May 1, 1989

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Anchorage

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Native Baptist Mission

The need for an Alaska Baptist Mission in Anchorage became apparent as more and more Native people left their home villages and migrated to Alaska's largest city in search of improved economic opportunities. The Native Baptist Mission of Anchorage was begun in April 1953 on property purchased by the Home Mission Board. This property at 802 East Third Avenue was directly across the street from the new 400-bed Alaska Native Service hospital. The mission was sponsored by the First Baptist Church, Anchorage and supported by the Chugach Baptist Association.

Thomas H. Miller (Letitia) was called as the first missionary pastor. Mrs. Alice Kalerak, a devout Eskimo Christian, had been praying for a Native church and ministry in Anchorage ever since she moved from her village to the big city. Tommy and Letitia were helped greatly by Valeria Sherard, who was then the associational missionary for Chugach Baptist Association. The Millers labored for several months for the conversion of souls as well as trying to complete a small chapel building. The Millers left Alaska to attend college, and Valeria Sherard was asked to lead the mission until another missionary couple could come.

Michael and Virginia McKay, Alaskans who were attending Wayland Baptist College in Texas, accepted a call to the Anchorage field and returned via

Alaska Highway to continue the Native ministry. In January 1956, the Home Mission Board appointed the McKays as Career Missionaries. Soon the Native Mission Sunday School grew to an enrollment of 51 and the membership to 31. The congregation was primarily Native except for Anglos married to the Native members. During the McKays ministry, a full and far-reaching program of church outreach was projected through various ministries. In addition to Sunday School, Training Union, worship services, prayer meeting, WMU and Brotherhood, there were sewing groups, jail ministry, youth recreation and an intensive visitation program, hospital and nursing home ministry, prison rehabilitation and parole services, case-work and job services, summer camps (first in 1956), open-air street services, hospital extension Sunday School, social programs, handcrafts, VBS, dramas, music programs and choirs. The church leaders and officer, as well as pianist and choir director, were Natives.

The little Chapel and attached parsonage became too small to hold the people comfortably. After a visit from Home Mission Board personnel, the Board purchased the adjoining lot with a small house on it. The McKays moved the parsonage quarters there and used the first two small buildings for services. In the Spring of 1956, Calvary Baptist Church gave their original chapel to the Native Mission and the Native members renovated it and put it into use. The work continued to grow and the Home Mission Board allocated funds to build a new and beautiful church building. This new edifice, which is presently in use, was dedicated in 1958. Members voted to rename the mission the East Third Avenue Baptist Mission.

Native Baptist Training School

As the membership grew, the need for more trained Native leadership was evident, so in the fall of 1956 the Native Baptist Training School {later called the Native Baptist Bible Institute) was established. The next year the Native Mission petitioned the Alaska Baptist Convention to take over the sponsorship of the Native Training School. The school offered a two-year course of study. Classes were taught by Anchorage pastors, educational and music directors. The school continued to be housed at the Native Mission and operated for six years, graduating three classes. A kindergarten was begun and taught by one of the graduates. Two other graduates, Willie and Martha Johnson (Mrs. Alice Kalerak's daughter) became the first two Eskimo appointees of the Home Mission Board. The Johnsons served the missions in Selawik and in Emmonak. When the McKays left the Native Mission to go as Home Mission Board Regional Missionaries to the Kenai Peninsula, Willie and Martha were called

to East Third Avenue Baptist Church {later First Native Baptist Church) in November 1971.

Under Willie's leadership, the Native Mission ministered to all kinds of people... tourists, villagers, boarding home students, hospital patients, etc. Willie conducted Home Fellowships every winter. Since the church is located across from Alaska Native Medical Center, people who came for medical attention walked across and worshiped regularly. One day when there was a bomb threat at the hospital, the patients were ordered out while the police searched for the bomb. Willie opened the church and invited the patients in. Willie ministered to the patients and a number of them thanked him for comforting words when they needed it.

Native Baptist Mission in Mountain View

From 1981 to 1985, there was a Native Baptist Mission in the Mountain View area known as Alaska Native Baptist Mission. Don



Rollins (Marianne) served as pastor as well as Director of the Native Baptist School of Theology. Faith Baptist Church, Anchorage sponsored this Native outreach in Mountain View which shared the building used by Faith East Baptist Mission. Don Rollins resigned as pastor of the Alaska Native Mission in June 1984. Mike McKay was called as pastor.

East Third Avenue Baptist Church

In the Spring of 1984, Willie Johnson resigned as pastor of the East Third Avenue Baptist Mission to take the position as General Missionary to the Native villages. Don Rollins was called to pastor East Third Mission in June 1984, where he served until June 1985. During that year the building was repainted with the help of volunteers from Sunset Hills. Russell Lamont served as trainee associate pastor with Pastor Rollins. In July 1985 the two missions voted to merge and constitute as East Third Avenue Baptist Church, Anchorage. Mike McKay was called as pastor of the new Native church. Don Rollins became full-time Director of the Native Baptist School of Theology at the time of the merger. Mike McKay continued as pastor until his retirement in April 1986.

Following Mike McKay's retirement, Bill Webb served as interim pastor until the church called Wayne Bailey as its pastor in 1987. Isaac Roberson served as pastor associate. Wayne Bailey resigned in 1988. On May 1, 1989 the church was incorporated as the East Third Avenue Baptist Church. J.D. Back served as interim pastor until the church called Don Rollins (Marianne) in February 1990 as pastor.

First Native Baptist Church, Anchorage

On Jan 23, 1991, the church voted unanimously to change the church name to First Native Baptist Church, and documents show that that it was officially changed January 20, 1994. In November 1992, the church hosted the annual Native Baptist Conference and invited Jonathan W. Wilson, pastor of the First Indian Baptist Church of Oakland, California, to be its guest speaker. On April 18, 1993, the church celebrated its 40th anniversary. The following month, Ted Sutton was ordained to the gospel ministry. The church also began to seek a new pastor because of the pending retirement of the Rollinses in the Fall. An invitation was extended to the Wilsons

of California to consider the pastorate of the Native Church. On August 8, 1993, the church unanimously voted to call Jonathan

Wainwright Wilson (Erlinda) as their new pastor. He and his family arrived on September 14, 1993. The Rollinses retired in September 1993.

In the summer of 1994, the church underwent major refurbishing, and a new church sign was installed in the fall. On November 2, 1994, Valeria Sherard was honored as Missionary Emeritus of First Native Baptist Church during the Alaska Native Baptist Conference. The First Native Baptist Church Choir has participated in the annual Native Musicale of the Anchorage Fur Rendezvous Festival for the past three years.

Anchorage Native Fellowship

In May 1995, Adolph Friendly assumed responsibility for the outreach ministry of the Anchorage Native Fellowship and changed the direction of the ministry to be geared toward establishing a sobriety support group. Adolph began to teach "Overcoming Chemical Dependency" to new Native Christians who are struggling with their sobriety. John Riley was the first graduate of this program. Eight are currently enrolled in this program.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Jonathan (Erlinda) Wilson pastored First Native Baptist Church beginning in the late 1990s. He resigned in July of 2006. In 2006 Jim (Ann) Morris succeeded Jonathan Wilson as pastor, and remained in that position until September 2008. Rick McCafferty filled in as interim pastor for six months in 2009. Charles (Nancy) Lane was pastor from July of 2009 to July of 2015 and was succeeded by Ted (Olivia) Sutton who served the church from August 2015 until August 2018. The current pastor, Matt (Lisa) Derr, came to the church January 12, 2020.



Friendship Baptist Mission

Fairbanks, Alaska

Date Begun: January 12, 1947

Date Constituted: August 2, 1953; April 24, 1988
reconstituted October 20, 2000

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Beginning

On January 12, 1947, C.O. Dunkin and wife Alma, met with 31 Native people in the Odd Fellows' Hall in Fairbanks and started what we know today as Friendship Baptist Church. The temperature was just 50 degrees below zero.

In 1950, the Dunkins purchased property at 1465 Lacey Street for \$2,500. A basement was built and used for services and living quarters. The Native Mission participated with First Baptist Church in the simultaneous revival of 1950. A number of Eskimo conversions were experienced including Tom and Elsie Willock. Before leaving Fairbanks in June of 1951, the Dunkins deeded the property to the Home Mission Board with the understanding that the Board would complete the building and supply a missionary. At that time First Baptist Church, Fairbanks, assumed responsibility for the Native Mission. Pastor Orland Cary directed the completion of the building. In May 1952, Richard Miller arrived on the field and served as interim pastor until the arrival of John and Alvilda Dickerson, newly appointed Home Mission Board missionaries, in February 1953.

Plans were made in the summer of 1953 to constitute the mission into the Native Baptist Church. The week before constituting, five leading members were killed in a traffic accident near Valdez. The Native Baptist Church was constituted August 2, 1953 with fifty charter members. This was the first Baptist church to be constituted for Alaska Natives, and that same year Tom Willock was ordained as the first Eskimo deacon.

Mission Outreach

In the summer of 1953, Dick Miller went to Kotzebue to start a Baptist work. The Kotzebue Baptist Mission was under the watch-care of the Fairbanks Native Church. Also in November 1953, John Dickerson and a member of the church went to Nenana to preach the gospel to the Natives. Services were also held in mining camps near Fairbanks. John Jeffcoat (Raleigh) became missionary/pastor in September 1955.

From Church to Mission Status

In December 1955, the Native Church building was destroyed by fire. The Native Church temporarily merged with the Immanuel Baptist Church and formed the Calvary Baptist Church. However, the Native Mission was re-established as a segregated mission for Natives only. In the summer of 1957 the Home Mission Board began the construction of the present building which was completed and dedicated in March 1958.

Friendship Baptist Mission

John and Lillian Isaacs came to serve the Native Mission in 1960. God led them to begin a ministry to internationals which started with an English class at the Isaac's kitchen table and then to homes and finally to the mission building. The name of the church was changed to Friendship Baptist Mission to reflect this new ministry.

During the Isaac's ministry, more than 150 persons were won to the Lord and baptized and more than 1300 people attended English and Citizenship classes. Citations were presented to the Isaacs from Immigration and Naturalization Service and from the President of the U.S. expressing appreciation for the unique service provided through Friendship Mission.

Native and International Focus

In 1972, the Isaacs retired, and J.D. and Virginia Back were appointed to Friendship where they continued the English and Citizenship work as well as the work with the Natives until 1981. In 1975, Valeria Sherard moved from the villages to Fairbanks to work with J.D. and Virginia Back at Friendship Mission and to serve as area missionary to the Eskimos in the city. Valeria led a Monday night Bible study for children and youth which reached an enrollment of 150. She also directed WMU mission organizations on Wednesdays, planned Eskimo fellowships and parties, camping experiences, berry picking, etc. For ten years, Valeria led an exciting Native ministry at Friendship.

When J.D. and Virginia Back resigned in 1981, David and Nancy Baldwin were appointed by the Home Mission Board and arrived August 3, 1981. David and Nancy continued and expanded the Literacy Ministry to the internationals and the Natives. Valeria continued the church's ministry to the Natives until she moved back to Anchorage in 1985.

January 1, 1986, marked another change in leadership. David Baldwin accepted the call to become the Director of Missions for Tanana Valley Baptist Association. Ronnie and Peggy Prevost came to serve in an interim capacity until the Home Mission Board completed the process of appointing Bill and Debbie Webb to Friendship. The Webb family came in November 1986 and served until early 1991. During their tenure, Friendship constituted as Friendship Baptist Church on April 24, 1988, and in 1989 began a Korean Baptist Mission.

Paul and Sharon Wells came as missionary/pastor in January 1992. Paul is pastor and Sharon serves as director of the English/Citizenship School. In the fall of 1994, Pastor Wells taught a class for Alaska Baptist Native School of Theology which was hosted by Friendship Mission. The Korean Mission continues to meet at Friendship under the leadership of Rev. Ho Joong Cho.

Associate Pastor for Natives

In September 1994, Friendship called Raymond Huff (Lisa) to
UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

be associate pastor for Native work. Raymond has deep roots at Friendship having grown up here, both physically and spiritually. Raymond was ordained to the gospel ministry on October 30, 1994. Pastor Huff leads a week night service for the Natives.

Several men have pastored Friendship Baptist Mission in the past 25 years: Ramon DeLeon, Richard (Sharon) Wall, Paul (Sharon) Wells, Chris (Dorothy) Grooms, Darren (Bridgit) Lawson, David (Marci) Joseph, 2018-present

Frontier Baptist Church

Fairbanks, Alaska

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Date Begun: June 19, 2016
Date Constituted: April 6, 2017

to many different groups, from UAF college students to high school youth to families with children to working professionals, all with a vision to love God and love one another.

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

On March 1, 1981, in Berkeley, California, Pastor Paul Kim (Pastor Emeritus of Antioch Baptist - Cambridge, MA) and his wife, Rebekah (Southern Baptist Chaplain at Harvard University), founded Berkland Baptist Church (BBC), a member of the Southern Baptist Convention, with the vision to live out His Great Commandment, to love God and love one another, and to fulfill His Great Commission, to make disciples of all nations. In October 2015, Pastor Paul and Rebekah visited Anchorage to participate in the annual gathering of PrayerLink. They felt convicted of the increasing need for the Gospel to be proclaimed in the frontier state of Alaska and, with their vision Frontier Baptist Church was planted on June 19, 2016, in downtown Fairbanks, Alaska.

Frontier Baptist Church is led by Senior Pastor James Suh and his wife Soomi and Associate Pastor Philip Kim and his wife Esther. Together with other missionary families, Frontier Baptist Church reflects the rich spiritual heritage that has been handed down to us through Berkland Baptist Church these past 39 years and our commitment to continue that vision here in Fairbanks. We minister



Congregation in 2020



Church Staff Picture: From left to right Hope Xu, Esther Kim, Soomi Suh, James Suh, Philip Kim, Wang Xu

Frontier Fellowship

Anchorage, Alaska

Date Begun: 2009
Date Constituted: May 13, 2011

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Frontier Fellowship began as Frontier Cowboy Church and later the name was changed to Frontier Fellowship. Doug Briney was the first pastor, serving from 2009 to 2013. Brad Burns is the current, bi-vocational pastor, serving since 2014. The church meets on the Wayland Baptist University, Anchorage campus.

Frontier Southern Baptist Church

Kodiak, Alaska

Date Begun: October 28, 1967

Date Constituted: December 3, 1967; reconstituted July 30, 1970

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Two Baptist Military Families and Eight Girls

During the summer of 1967, two Baptist military families living at Kodiak became concerned because there was no Southern Baptist church on the island where their daughters could attend Girl's Auxiliary. The families discussed the possibility of beginning the mission organization, even though there was no church. The mothers visited the Alaska Baptist Convention office and asked Louise Yarbrough, WMU Secretary, "Is it possible to have a GA without having a church?" Louise replied, "I've never heard of it, but I'm sure you can." They invited Louise to come to Kodiak to meet with them. Other families were contacted by the Ottis Williams and the William Perrys and on September 19, 1967, 21 people met in the Williams home to hear Louise Yarbrough report on Southern Baptist work in Alaska. As the group sang favorite hymns and prayed together, they felt led to form a Southern Baptist Fellowship and set a date for a second meeting. Some confessed that they had been praying for years for such a group. They were further encouraged by a one hundred dollar check from the Calvary Baptist Church in Anchorage which Miss Yarbrough presented to them.

Southern Baptist Fellowship

A combination fellowship dinner and organizational meeting was held on October 28, 1967, at the Buskin Beach House. Allen Meeks, State Religious Education Secretary, assisted the group in organizing and electing officers. On November 5, 1967, the Baptist Fellowship met at the Kodiak Electric Association auditorium and voted to form a Southern Baptist Church. A name was chosen and date set; on December 3, 1967, the Frontier Baptist Church was constituted with 34 members, all military. E.W. Hunke, Executive Secretary of the Alaska Baptist Convention, was asked to serve as interim pastor.

Frontier Baptist Church

Ray Hustead (Trudy) was called as the first pastor of Frontier, and they arrived on July 21, 1968. Ray served until 1974 and developed a "military fellowship." When the Naval Base closed down, it almost wiped out the church. Don Swafford arrived in July 1974, to the church with six members - three women and three teenage girls. There were seven in Sunday School the first month and four of these were the Swafford family.

Church Growth

During the next five years, the church became indigenous to Kodiak; the attendance grew to a high of 84 with an average attendance of 65. A beautiful church building was constructed and on the tenth anniversary, December 3, 1977, the church moved into its new facility with 84 in attendance. The church secured a loan from the National Bank of Alaska which led to an agreement between the bank and the Alaska Baptist Convention making it easier for other new churches to secure church loans for building first units. Don Swafford resigned in April, 1979.

John Allen, State Missions Director, served the church for the next six months until Gene Lueders (Mary), a recent graduate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, arrived in 1980. The church continued a slow but steady growth. Gene resigned in June 1988. Doug Edwards served as interim pastor until Jack Hulsey (Evelyn) from San

Antonio, Texas, arrived in the fall of 1990. The 1995 records show that there are 22 resident members, Sunday School enrollment is 20, morning worship attendance is about 40 and the attendance at evening worship is about 20. There were three additions by baptism last year.

Mission Outreach

Peter Olsen Jr. visited the logging camp of Danger Bay and established a Preaching Point. He also ministered to a family at Chiniak. Peter Olsen Jr. went home to be with the Lord around Christmas time 1995. The Frontier Church no longer has an outreach to Danger Bay or Chiniak.

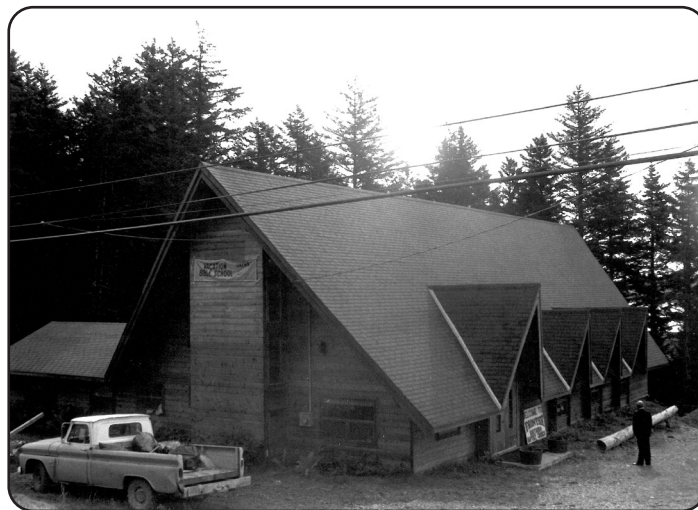
UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Jack Hulsey integrated well into the community of Kodiak, and the church continued to grow. He was known by most of the community, and could be found many mornings having breakfast with other community members at King's Diner. He also built relationships in the community through his other vocation as a welder. Jack faithfully served as pastor of the church until his death on October 29, 2005.

Frontier - A Solid History and A Bright Future

After Jack's passing, the church began the process of seeking and calling their next pastor. Faithful members continued the work and ministry of the church for the next year and a half, taking on increased leadership roles in the administration and spiritual life of the church. Finally, in the summer of 2007, Gary Elmore and his wife, Candy, answered God's call on their lives and arrived in Kodiak to pastor the church. Gary brought to Frontier a renewed desire to reach out to the community and island with Christ's love. To that end, Gary founded Kodiak Island Outreach, a ministry designed to bring Kodiak's churches together to meet (KIO) people's needs on the island in order to open up opportunities for the gospel. KIO has a very active presence around the island, providing opportunities for followers of Christ in Kodiak to share and show Christ's love on the island. Toward the end of Elmore's time at Frontier God began preparing the church for the future. Mark and Heather Overbeek had been serving as missionaries in one of the island's villages for 11 years. In the summer of 2015 they felt God call-

ing their family to move to Kodiak. God opened doors for ministry within the church, and fairly quickly Gary and Mark forged a friendship and partnership in ministry. When the Elmore's felt God calling them to retire in the fall of 2017 it was a natural fit for Mark to take on the role of lead pastor. The Overbeeks are blessed to be able to continue in this role today, and are excited to see the Spirit moving as the church grows and is strengthened and disciples are made.



ened and disciples are made. The past year has been an exciting time in the life of the church, as building projects are underway and many projects are nearing completion that will make the church much more useful and efficient for the work of the ministry. God is so good and faithful, and the church feels blessed to be used of Him, for His glory.

Gilead Ministries

Anchorage, Alaska

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Date Begun: February 12, 2012
Date Constituted: December 31, 2012

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

In January 2012, 18 adults and their children who are dedicated and spirit-led followers of Jesus Christ held an organizational meeting and shared the vision that God was calling them to plant a new church and ministry. Their vision and purpose would be driven by missions, education and service-oriented ministries. In accordance with the Holy Spirit, Gilead Ministries was established and founded by Pastor Reverend Clifton J. Gay III, M.Div. on February 12, 2012, in Anchorage, Alaska.

The Mission Statement of Gilead Ministries is to serve, minister, educate and apply the balm/cure of Jesus Christ to those with hurts, hang-ups and habits of this sin sick world. The vision Scripture is, Jeremiah 8:22, "Is there no balm in GILEAD, Is there no physician there? Why then is there no recovery for the health of the daughter of my people".

The Philosophy/Vision Statement of Gilead Ministries is to educate and reach people for Jesus Christ, bringing them into membership with God's family, maturing, teaching and discipling them in God's Word, training them for ministry and missions and sending them out to be ambassadors and witnesses for Jesus Christ.

During the October 16, 2012 Annual Meeting held at First Baptist Church, Anchorage, Alaska, the Chugach Baptist Association (CBA), Director David George presented Gilead Ministries to the membership of the CBA as a Church Plant. Those present and voting members of the CBA officially voted to accept Gilead Ministries as a full-fledged member of the association.

The leadership and members of Gilead Ministries agreed to move forward to become fully equipped locally, statewide and globally as a Church and Ministry.

Gilead Ministries' past and current mission ministries are: adoption of Muldoon and Airport Heights Fire Stations, the Fresenius Medical Dialysis Center, Creekside Park Elementary School, Crisis Pregnancy Center, Youth for Christ, Anchorage, Prisons and Mary Magdalene House. The Education Ministry provided educational materials and food items to the bush village of Newtok and connected with the Bethel teaching staff, the Wellness Ministry established B.E.L.L.Y. (Believing Encouraging Living and Loving Your Faith) focused on teen pregnancy support.

Minister Gail F. Gay, the First Lady of Gilead Ministries, continued ministering and fellowshiping with the Pastors' Wives in the Greater Anchorage and Fairbanks areas. There were many Fellowships to help encourage and strengthen the unity of the Pastors' Wives and their Churches. This has been well received by all and one of the highlights of Gilead Ministries.

In 2013, Gilead Ministries established an on-going Family Missions Ministry with the families and members who have moved to Texas, Arizona and Kentucky. Through this Ministry we have estab-

lished a weekly Family Prayer Line that began in 2017 and continues today. This ministry is reaching family members and friends in Texas, Arizona, California, Florida, Indiana and Alaska.

In 2015, Gilead Ministries and GraceWorks began a mission partnership. Pastor Gay and Scott Kirby agreed to house mission teams from all over the United States during the Summer at Gilead Ministries and other sites in the Greater Anchorage areas. This ministry and partnership has proven to be God-ordained and Kingdom driven. There have been hundreds of people and mission teams who have labored and shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ to hundreds of children, youth, adults and families in the parks and neighborhoods in the Greater Anchorage areas.

In 2018, Pastor Gay partnered with Scott Kirby to co-teach a Men's Bible Study in a nearby Native Village. Each week (weather permitting) they fly to Tyonek to fellowship, share the gospel and lead a Bible Study. This is a highlight.

In 2019, Gilead Ministries and the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, Georgia began The Certificate in Theology Program. This Program is designed to provide an organized and structured series of courses for Pastors, Ministers, Church Leaders and Lay people who want to improve their knowledge and preparedness for ministry. This program is open to all interested persons with or without college degrees. This is a 32-week program and courses such as:

- Intro to New Testament
- Intro to Philosophy and Theology
- Intro to Old Testament
- Intro to Preaching and Missiology
- Intro to Christian Education
- History of African American Churches
- Intro to Pastoral Care
- Intro to Church Administration

These courses are 4 weeks each in length and taught by seminary trained instructors with Master's or Doctorate Degrees and features recorded lectures by faculty members of ITC on the campus of Morehouse University in Atlanta, Georgia. Gilead has helped 15 students from local Churches and Denominations receive their Certificate in Theology diploma. Currently we have seven students going through the program now and will complete their course work in November 2020. (For more info contact Gilead Ministries: (gileadpraisesgod@gmail.com))

Gilead Ministries will continue to be led by the Holy Spirit in all its future ministries. We will continue to equip our members to walk in the power of working "from victory and not for victory" (T. Evans 2011) in Jesus Christ. Innovative ministries will continue to be developed that will deal with healing and applying the "Balm of Jesus Christ" to those with hurts, hang-ups and habits of this sin sick world all to the Glory of God.

Glacier Valley Baptist Church

Juneau, Alaska

Date Begun: August 4, 1963

Date Constituted: September 3, 1963

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Room 422 Baranof Hotel

In July 1963, the Clay McDole and Frank Lescalette families met in Room 422 of the Baranof Hotel in Juneau to discuss and pray

about the need for a mission in the area surrounding the airport and near Mendenhall Glacier. A survey was taken and after two nights of visiting in the area, 16 persons committed to support a new



first building, 1963

mission. Following a week of prayer, a meeting of interested persons was held in the basement of First Baptist Church, Juneau, on August 4, 1963.

On August 11, 1963, the group held their first worship service in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Gaines, with 23 in attendance. With no sponsoring church and no promise of support as a mission, the group moved forward toward becoming an organized church. On September 1, 1963, the Glacier Valley Baptist Church, Juneau, was constituted with 23 members. Richard Moore was called as the first pastor.

Glacier Valley Baptist Church

Two months after organization, the new church joined other churches in Alaska in simultaneous revivals. During the week of revival, the church was driven to her knees in prayer for a building for worship. A 2.77 acre site with a small house was located. "The Lord will provide" became the watchword of the pioneering church. In February 1964, Pastor Moore resigned and returned to California. For the next ten months, Frank Lescalette, a young Coast Guard layman, filled the pulpit. On June 20, 1965, Frank Lescalette was licensed to Gospel Ministry by Glacier Valley.

After the spring thaw of 1964, the members added two Sunday School rooms, restrooms and furnace room. The building remained unsealed and without permanent light fixtures for several years. By November 1967, the church had 46 members from 14 families with 85 in Sunday School and 35 in Church Training. The church had an organ, a piano, Baptist hymnals, graded literature and \$4,000 in a building fund.

In the early years of Glacier Valley, the church received help from the Alaska Baptist Convention, Home Mission Board, First Baptist Church, Ketchikan, Bell Forest Baptist Church, Bel Air, Maryland, and the Oldham Little Church Foundation of Texas. Through the

help of work crews from numerous SBC churches, and the giving spirit of the membership, the facilities were erected almost debt-free.

Valley Baptist Academy and TV

In 1972, Glacier Valley began a weekly television program first called CONTACT and later changed to televise the Sunday morning worship service. The TV program was discontinued after a few years.

In 1974, a Preschool was begun which developed into the Valley Baptist Academy by 1980 offering classes preschool through eighth grade. Groundbreaking for the school building occurred in 1983 and the Academy moved into their new building in 1984. After about nine years, the Academy ceased, but the church continues to operate Valley Baptist Preschool.

Church Growth and Outreach

In 1995, a record attendance of 162 was reached in Sunday School with average attendance of 146 in Bible study. Wednesday night services record attendance was 166. Plans are being made to enlarge the church plant to accommodate 240 in worship and Sunday School.

Pastors Who Have Served

Dr. H. Royce Christmas (Betty) arrived on the church field April 16, 1995. In June 1995, Tom Gordy (Theresa) was called as Associate Minister of Youth and Education. Tom also does student work at the University of Alaska Southeast.

Other pastors who have served are: Randy Smith, interim, 1993-94; Mike Procter, 1986-92; Curtis McClain, 1978-1985; W.K. Kirk, 1972-1978; Olyn Roberts, 1969-72; Stanley File, 1966-69; Edward Owens, 1965-66; Richard Moore, 1963-1964.

Missions Sponsored by Glacier Valley

Douglas Island Baptist Fellowship started in September 1990 when eleven people met in Chuck and Donna Collins' home for a Bible Study. Ralph Duddles was mission pastor in the beginning, and Guy Crockroft is the present mission pastor. Sunday School and worship are held on Sunday afternoon at 5 p.m. in the Douglas Methodist Church with about 15-20 in attendance.

Skagway Baptist Fellowship was begun April 14, 1989, by Hewitt and Terri Hazelton, Mission Service Corp volunteers, who had moved to Skagway in 1988. The Thursday night Bible Fellowship meets in the Hazelton's home with about 20 attending Bible study and worship in this community of about 700 population.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Glacier Valley Baptist Church (GVBC) has been a beacon of light in Juneau's Mendenhall Valley with a focus on missions and children/student ministry.

Fifty-five years of Vacation Bible School (VBS) (1964-2018) shared the love of Christ with thousands of children, often 200 per summer. They are thankful to the Lord for hundreds of dedicated VBS volunteers, including several visiting mission teams and summer missionaries. They also had an energetic children's Sunday School for fifty-five years.

Glacier Valley's AWANA program served hundreds of children and their families over 25 years (1993-2018). Many were from unchurched families in the neighborhood who went home to evangelize their families.

For several decades the Youth Ministry taught young people how to navigate the 'turbulent teens' through the Word of God. Students

participated in many ministry projects locally and in several Southeast Alaska communities as well as internationally (including 9 teams to work with IMB partners in Guatemala or Slovakia from 2000-2013).

The church supported three decades of ministry at the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS), welcoming students from Alaska and around the world from 1988-2017. UAS Christian Fellowship and BCM students participated in many church functions and other ministry projects locally, in Alaska (including Tenakee, Haines, Skagway, Prince of Wales Island) and internationally (including: Slovakia and China). The UAS ministry was staffed by GVBC but in the first 5 years they received help from 5 Home Mission Board (now NAMB) MSC/US2: James Otts, Rodd Follett, Wynelle Klopfer, Michelle Spomer, and Jae McKee.

On Mission To Share Jesus:

GVBC actively serves under the Acts 1:8 directive. In addition to the above ministries to children and students, members have been and continue to be His witnesses at home and abroad, for example:

Students and adults regularly participate on teams or individually in local projects such as: cooking meals monthly at the local homeless shelter for more than 30 years; leading weekly Bible Studies at the prison; hosting an annual Harvest Festival; and volunteering for Love INC, hospital chaplaincy, pregnancy resource center, ESL ministry, and Echo Ranch Bible Camp.

Students and adults are also involved around Alaska in various ways, such as: Iditarod Outreach in Nome, children's ministry and VBS (including Haines, Tenakee Springs, Skagway, Hoonah, Prince of Wales Island), church construction projects and community outreach (including Haines, Skagway, Coffman Cove, Thorne Bay, Tenakee Springs), and as Gideons providing Bibles in Southeast Alaska.

The GVBC Messengers, a ladies singing group (1995-2011), traveled to share Jesus in Petersburg, Skagway, Haines, Tenakee Springs, Hoonah, Prince of Wales Island, Whitehorse, Sitka and Gustavus. The Messengers were often accompanied by a preacher or Buttons the Clown who also added gospel messages to their concerts.

GVBC gives and prays for international missions on most continents.

Members have filled thousands of shoeboxes to be shared around the world through Operation Christmas Child. Several

students and adults have also participated in short-term international projects in evangelism, missionary support, or prayer walking in Africa (including Ethiopia, South Africa), Asia (including Cambodia, India, China, Philippines), Europe (including Greece and Slovakia), and Central America (including Guatemala and Mexico).

One member served a year as NAMB MSC in American Samoa, two members served as IMB ISC for more than a year in Russia, four members served as full time GCCs in East Asia (one is still serving, two are now appointed by the IMB in West Africa and East Asia). One member served as an IMB Journeyman in South Asia and is now appointed by the IMB in Europe, while two

other members served semester terms as IMB Hands On, in East Asia, Senegal.

Current or former members appointed by the IMB:

Europe, 2 units (1 retired, 1 on the field)

West Africa, 1 unit (on the field)

East Asia, 1 unit (on the field)

Sponsored Mission work in Southeast Alaska:

Haines: 1997-2011 [New Hope Fellowship constituted in 2011 and remains a healthy congregation with Pastor Sage (Holly) Thomas.]

Tenakee Springs: Todd (Jodie) Buck has pastored the Tenakee Springs Community Church since 2010. The Bucks commute to Tenakee twice a month by ferry, floatplane, or on their own boat. Prior to 2010, various pastors ministered in Tenakee under the sponsorship of Juneau's SBC churches at different times. Pastor Mike

Proctor started GVBC's fellowship with Tenakee in 1986 and GVBC called Gary (Stephanie) Thomas to pastor the Tenakee Springs mission in 1989.

Skagway: 1989-2008
Douglas Island Mission: 1989-2002.

Other Mission/Church participation:

Rescate Church is a NAMB church plant hosted in the GVBC church building. Rescate's pastor is Mario (Migda) Morales.

Agape Fellowship in Palmer is a church plant to which GVBC contribute financially and in prayer. Pastor Nathaniel (Dominica) Buck is a former member of GVBC.

The church is honored to have been on mission with Jesus with so many people in so many places for the past 57 years. The above highlights are just that, a sketch of some ways God has let GVBC participate in His work. GVBC prays His name will be lifted high and ask Him to continue sending workers out to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.



Current Building (2020)



Fiftieth Anniversary celebration 2013

Glacier Valley Baptist Church; Juneau (cont.)

Pastors and Wives Who Have Served

Todd (Jodie) Buck, Tenakee mission pastor 2010-present; Gordon (Kelly) Mills, pastor 2011-February 2020; Kenneth (Barbara) Chadwick, interim pastor 2009-11; Earl (Shannon) Midkiff, interim pastor 2008; Scott (Trudy) Williamson, pastor 2004-08; Bob (Peggy) Rooks, interim pastor 2003-04; Jimmie (Gladys) Woods, interim pastor 2002-03; Chris (Dorothy) Grooms, Skagway mission pastor 2001-08; Todd (Jodie) Buck, associate pastor, 2000-05; Sage (Holly) Thomas, Haines mission pastor 1999-present [New Hope Fellowship constituted in 2011]; Greg (Rene) Clark, pastor 1999-2002; Wayne

(Wilma) Eurich, interim pastor 1998-99; Todd (Joice) Lynn, Haines mission 1997-98; Royce (Betty) Christmas, pastor 1995-1998; Tom (Theresa) Gordy, associate pastor 1995-98; Guy (Martha) Crockroft, Douglas Island mission pastor 1993-96; Randy (Patty) Smith, pastor 1993-94; Ralph (Sally) Duddles, Douglas Island mission pastor 1990-92; Hewitt (Terri) Hazelton, Skagway mission pastor 1989-95; Mike (Rebecca) Proctor, pastor 1986-92; Curtis (Dorothy) McLain, pastor 1978-85; W.D. (Earline) Kirk, pastor 1972-1978; Olyn Roberts, pastor 1969-72; Stanley File, pastor 1966-69; Edward Owens, pastor 1965-66; Frank (Grace) Lescallette, pulpit supply 1964; Richard (Joan) Moore 1963-64

Grandview Baptist Church Anchorage, Alaska

Date Begun: June 15, 1952

Date Constituted: November 30, 1953

Sponsoring Church: Chugach Baptist Association

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Grandview Gardens Mission

Grandview Gardens Mission was not begun by just one church but by seven churches of the Chugach Baptist Association. In the Spring of 1952, John Defoore, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, led the churches of the association in securing property and constructing the first unit building at the corner of Saxton Road (now DeBarr) at Columbine Street. The cost of construction and the volunteer labor were provided by sister churches.

The first services were held on June 15, 1952, with nine in Sunday School. Three months later on September 14, 1952, Grandview Gardens Baptist Church (named for a new subdivision) was constituted with 12 charter members. Forrest W. Carter was the first pastor.

Building Programs

Edward Evans, the second pastor, led the church in the first building expansion when a two-story educational/fellowship wing was added to the original structure in 1953 using surplus materials from a military post.

Two major building programs were completed under the leadership of pastor Clifford McConnell. The three-story sanctuary/educational building was constructed and dedicated in April 1965. On the church's 25th anniversary in September 1977, the two-story educational wing was dedicated debt-free.

Additional educational and parking space was acquired when the church purchased a lot and house on Sunrise Drive and a duplex on Columbine Street. This brought the educational and worship seating capacity to about 225 and increased the parking space to accommodate 150 cars.

Mission Outreach

From its beginning, missions has been a major priority at Grandview. Between 1955-59, Grandview sponsored three missions which constituted as churches: Trinity (now Victory Baptist) Church, Anchorage; First Baptist Church, Eagle River; and University Baptist Church, Anchorage. In 1968, Grandview began sponsoring work in the Matanuska-Susitna Valleys and called James and Fem Akin as missionaries. This mission effort reached from Montana Creek Mission (1968) to re-opening First Baptist Palmer (1968), to re-opening Big Lake Mission (1969) to McKinley Park Fellowship in 1970. In January 1980 Grandview began a Korean Mission as an outgrowth

of the English/Citizenship School begun in 1971. The First Korea Baptist Church was constituted in 1992.

In November 1984, Grandview began its sixth church-type mission with the opening of Valley View Baptist Mission in Eagle River. This was by far the most challenging mission the church had ever started. To begin with, the five-acre tract of land cost \$375,000. Valley View Baptist Church constituted in 1993.

English/Citizenship School

Grandview became actively involved in an international ministry in 1971 when the Chugach Baptist Association English/Citizenship School was moved from Calvary to Grandview. Carol Ann Holcomb served as first director followed by Louise Yarbrough (1971-87) and LaVerne Bradshaw (1988-Present).

The Grandview School celebrated its 25th anniversary on April 30, 1996. The International Sunday School Class began in 1974 continues with LaVerne Bradshaw as teacher. Through its international ministry, Grandview has "touched the world" with an average annual enrollment of about 150 students from a total of about 80 countries.

Weekday Ministries

In January 1973, the church called Louise Yarbrough as Director of Weekday Ministries (later changed to Director of Weekday Ministries and Education). During the 13 years Louise served, the international ministry was expanded to include monthly International Friends meetings, Bible classes, and Easter and Christmas worship services. A "Mother's Day Off" child care program was begun in 1973 and was staffed by volunteers for six years. In January 1978, Jeanine Hardin, semester missionary, began a "BIG A CLUB," an after-school Bible club, which continued until 1983 staffed by Grandview volunteers. For eight years, Louise taught a Thursday Ladies Bible Class which reached out to the women of the community as well as Grandview women.

When Grandview merged with Fairview Baptist Church in 1974, Fairview Baptist Center was begun as a continuing ministry in that community. Louise Yarbrough served for three years as director with volunteers from Grandview and other Anchorage churches. Grandview requested the Home Mission Board to send a US-2 couple to serve as director of this ministry, which included Sunday School, gym, Big A Club, mother's club, ceramics, clothing closet, day camp and VBS. Jim and Brenda Hearn, US-2ers, were appointed to this exciting ministry in 1977-79. A monthly international friends meeting was begun for the increasing number of internationals who were attending the Center activities. The Hearn family was followed by another US-2 couple, Dennis and Denise Jones (1980-82). The Fairview

Baptist Center was closed in August 1982 to allow the new Korean Baptist Mission, which was begun in January 1980, to have full use of the building.

Musical Church

Music has been a very important part of Grandview's history. For years volunteer lay-musicians directed choirs for children, youth and adults. Handbells were introduced by Roger and Irene Laube in 1970, and since that time Grandview has maintained both youth and adult handbell choirs. Sylvia Rylander, one of the original bell choir members, has distinguished herself as a concert bell soloist and she has performed in Alaska, in the South 48 and overseas.

Grandview has had four Ministers of Music/Youth: Tom Watson (Marilyn) (1977-79); Tom Welch (Debra) (1980-81), Lee Hansard (Sue) (1983-1995). During Lee and Sue's ministry, the graded choirs, the handbells and the orchestra not only provided exciting worship music but combined with the drama group to provide great performances such as "The Living Lord Supper" at Easter and Christmas musicals including "Hanging of the Green," "Sounds of Christmas" and "Carol of the Bells."

In 1986, 22 youths from Grandview attended Centrifuge, a youth week at Glorieta. The youth handbell choir auditioned and was chosen to perform at the Sunday worship service. Lee took the youth on numerous mission trips during his years at Grandview.

Following Lee Hansard's resignation, volunteers continued the music ministry. On January 7, 1996, Grandview welcomed Alan Smith (Carole) as their new Minister of Music and Youth.

Ministry to the Deaf

A ministry to the deaf was begun at the 1989 Christmas worship service. Classes in American Sign Language had been offered in September by Jackye Biehl. Debbie Ward, director, and several other ladies of the church alternate signing the worship services.

Grandview's Ministers and Missionaries

Former Grandview members who are serving in ministry as pastors: Richard Rhodes, Wesley Pruitt and Johnny Newton; ministers of music: Kerry Covington, Alan Covington and Jeremy Hansard; youth ministry: Kevin Porter, Nathan Dunman and Tim Dixon.

Six former members are serving as missionaries: Home missionary: Linda Hokit, Alaska; Foreign missionaries: Jim and Brenda Heam, Togo, W. Africa; Randy and Robin Covington, Russia; and Jean Jones, Hong Kong. Louise Yarbrough, retired home missionary, served in Alaska for seven years (1986-93).

Grandview's Pastors

Robert E. Jones (Debbie) is Grandview's ninth pastor having begun his ministry in November 1986. Charles Bass (Lynn), was called as Associate Pastor of Education and Administration and began his ministry at Grandview on February 1, 1996.

Other pastors serving Grandview have been: Edward E. Wolfe (Helen), December 1980-February 1986; Clifford S. McConnell (Millie), July 1963-July 1980; Roy Grove, July 1962- July 1963; W.T. Carlson (Billie), November 1960-May 1962; Richard Copeland (Arlene), February 1959-November 1960; C.H. Terwilliger, August

1958-January 1959; Edward E. Evans (Vee), June 1954-April 1958; Forrest W. Carter, 1952-1954.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

In 1998, Bob Jones resigned as pastor. Herb Cotton, a deacon at Grandview, became the interim pastor. In March of 2000, Grandview called Randy Graham as pastor. Randy and his wife Lisa had been a summer missionaries in Alaska for three years in the early 80s and had served two of those summers at Montana Creek Baptist Church, a mission of Grandview. Today, Randy Graham is Lead Pastor; Christina Sikkenga, Minister to Children; and Jeremy Wilson, Minister of Praise and Worship.

Grandview has always had a strong focus on missions. Not only

have they started several churches, but the church has been a strong supporter of Seaman's Mission, English as a Second Language (ESL), and various other state and local endeavors. Beginning in the early 2000s, God led Grandview to become even more involved in mission work. The church was instrumental in beginning GraceWorks, a ministry under the leadership of Scott Kirby and Grandview member Tracy Warren that brings over a 1000 mission volunteers to work in parks all across Anchorage and the state. GraceWorks not only spreads the gospel but also provides a place for churches and missions to make contact with the community around them. Grandview also began making yearly trips to China, and, until recently, two families from Grandview were missionaries there. Under the leadership of Michael Blakeney, youth and outreach minister at Grandview at the time, the church



began ministries in Anchorage and St. Lawrence island to the villages of Savoonga and Gambell. Grandview was also a big supporter in the beginning of Alaska Missions and Retreats, a ministry begun by Grandview member Brenda Crim. In the past 10 years Grandview has been the sponsor of six mission churches. When one takes into account the Gideons and individual mission trips made by many members, it adds up to a lot of missional influence from a small church.

Greater Friendship Baptist Church

Anchorage, Alaska

Date Begun: June 22, 1951

Date Constituted: January 5, 1965

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Anchorage

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Beginning

Greater Friendship Baptist Church was founded in the year of our Lord, 1951, and became the first Black church in the State of Alaska. Greater Friendship Baptist Church was the first Black church in America to affiliate with the Southern Baptist Convention. The founding of this church served as the beginning of other Black Churches in Alaska.

Greater Friendship was formed with a group of 32 baptized believers. Among the founders were Reverend Charles Kennedy, the founding pastor, Brother and Sister Johnson, Brother and Sister Dockery, Brother and Sister Hawkins, Deacon and Sister Chamberliss and Sister Vanee Robinson. The first worship service was held in the First Baptist Church in Anchorage. After holding services there for several months, the congregation moved to the Pioneer Hall at 6th Avenue and F Street. In 1952, a third move was made to 12th and Cordova. Then, by the grace of God, and through the diligence and sacrifice of faithful members, land was purchased at the present location of 903 East 13th Avenue. Reverend Charles Kennedy dedicated the church during that year.

Greater Friendship faced difficult times in its early history. After only one year in the new building in 1953, the building caught fire and burned, causing the congregation to have to move back to the 12th and Cordova location. The congregation came through those trying times through faith in Jesus Christ, and in 1955 was able to move back into the building at 13th and Ingra.

Greater Friendship has stood as an anchor of hope in the community of Anchorage, pointing the way to the greatest Hope, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. From the growth of Greater Friendship, two other Baptist churches were organized - Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church and New Hope Baptist Church.

Greater Friendship's Pastors

Greater Friendship is thankful to God for all the outstanding ministers of God who have won hosts of souls through their ministry and leadership as pastors of Greater Friendship Baptist Church.

Reverend Charles Kennedy (Pastor 1951-1955)

First minister and founder of Greater Friendship Baptist Church, Reverend Kennedy was instrumental in pulling together the financial and human resources to begin the church. He dedicated the church in 1952, and during his pastorate brought hundreds of new Christians to God.

Reverend L. Lewis (Pastor 1955-1959)

Reverend O. R. Pigford (Pastor 1960-1962)

Reverend Leo Josey, Sr. (Pastor 1962-1969)

Rev. Josey was the first Black to serve in an elected position in a Southern Baptist State Convention when he served as vice president of Alaska Baptist Convention in 1966. Rev. Josey was also the first Black to serve as Moderator of a Southern Baptist Association having served the Chugach Baptist Association, Anchorage. Reverend Josey baptized, prayed for, taught, counseled and encouraged many members of the present congregation.

Reverend H. Ring Griffin, Jr. (Pastor 1969-1970)

Reverend Cammie L. Watkins (Pastor 1971-1974)

Pastor Watkins' leadership spurred the church to sacrificial giving and to burning the church mortgage. Deacon John Matthews was ordained during this time, and Reverend Charlie Dargan was added to the staff as the first salaried assistant pastor of a Black church in Alaska.

Reverend Charlie Dargan (Pastor 1975-1985)

In 1979 Greater Friendship Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor Dargan, employed the first full-time secretary and began publishing a newsletter called "The Lamplighter." In 1979 a lot was purchased for an educational building. Many outreach programs were organized under the leadership of Pastor Dargan. In 1983, Greater Friendship Church received the Gold Award from the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention for the highest attendance recorded for Vacation Bible School.

Reverend Mark Smith (Interim Pastor 1985-1986)

Reverend John L. Smith (1986-1995)

Pastor J.L. Smith, a native of Montgomery, Alabama, and a retired Army veteran, came to Greater Friendship on May 1, 1986. Pastor Smith, and his wife Ma-ylon, have three adult children. Upon his arrival at Greater Friendship, he joyfully would shout the word "Glory," and the members would shout the word "Glory." The members immediately shared his joy. He taught the priorities of soul-winning and sound teaching of the Word of God. He is a firm believer in the truths "actions speak louder than words," and "only the doers are justified." Pastor Smith is a doer for God. When he came to Greater Friendship, the membership had dwindled down to 26 active members. Now the membership is 1,112.

On May 21, 1990, Greater Friendship Baptist Church received the documentation validating it as being the first Black church to enter the Southern Baptist Convention. On June 8, 1991, at the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, Greater Friendship Baptist Church was presented the plaque designating Greater Friendship as being the First Black Church in the Southern Baptist Convention. The plaque was presented by Dr. Emmanuel L. McCall, Director of Black Church Extension Division of Home Mission Board, and was received by Pastor J. L. Smith. Pastor Smith resigned the church in the spring of 1996.

Ministering Programs of Greater Friendship Baptist Church

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jail Ministry | Healing Team Ministry |
| Rescue Mission Ministry | Benevolent Ministry |
| Witnessing Team | Thursday Night Visitation |
| Tape Ministry | Rehabilitation Ministry |
| Radio Ministry | Senior Citizen Ministry |

Today Greater Friendship has a total of nine ministers and four active deacons. Two ministers have been called to pastor other churches. Rev. Herbert McGraw was called to Piney Grove, Florida and Rev. Frank Taylor was called to pastor at Solid Rock Baptist Church in Anchorage.

Charter member Sister Vanee Robinson-Haywood is the only living charter member of Greater Friendship. "Sister Vanee Robinson-Haywood's Day" is celebrated every year on June 22nd.

On October 1 of each year "Sister Terry Mae Adam's Day" is celebrated in honor of her steadfast service with our Sunday School Board.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

June 28, 2020, Greater Friendship celebrate its 70th year.

Attendance has risen, and the church has modernized, including screens for lyrics and scriptures. In 2019, Greater Friendship Baptist Church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, recognition for its position in history.

Greater Friendship is not only a black church. When a stranger enters, they must endure a loving gantlet of hugs and handshakes on their way to a seat. "We're going to be the most diverse church ever in Alaska," says Pastor Michael Bunton in a 2017 interview. "Not the first black church, but the most diverse church is my vision."

Pastors who have served the church in recent years are Leon (Cynthia) May, 1999-2009; John (Ma-ylon) Smith, 2011-2013; and Michael (Nathalie) Bunton.

Hillside Baptist Church

Anchorage, Alaska

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Date Begun: June 1970

Date Constituted: November 4, 1973; reconstituted February 10, 1986

Sponsoring Church: Muldoon Road Baptist Church

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

O'Malley Road Baptist Mission

Hillside Baptist Church (formerly O'Malley Road Baptist Mission) had its beginning in the hearts of Richard and Opal Miller and Virgil Chron, pastor of Muldoon Road Baptist Church. The Millers had moved to Anchorage after seven years in the Arctic, where they had led in establishing Baptist missions in Kotzebue, Selawik, Kobuk, Kiana, and Emmonak, followed by eight years as pastor of First Baptist Church, Sitka. In June 1970, a meeting was held in the Miller's home which resulted in Muldoon Road Baptist Church voting to sponsor a new mission in the O'Malley/Hillside area and the calling of Dick Miller as pastor. Down payment on the property was provided by a generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McCann and other members of Sunset Hills Baptist Church.

O'Malley Road Baptist Church

By July 4, 1970, the old army barracks which had been Muldoon's original building was donated and moved to O'Malley Road to house the new mission. Muldoon Church renovated the old building and installed a heating system. The O'Malley Road Baptist Church

was constituted on November 4, 1973. Dick Miller, a public school teacher, served as bi-vocational pastor for 13 years until March 1983.



Hillside Baptist Church

John Copeland was called as pastor in the spring of 1983. During his ministry the O'Malley Road Church was renamed Hillside Baptist Church. The next two pastors, Darryl Hatley and John Land continued to lead the church in planning for a new church building. In August 1985, Pastor Gale Starkey (Linda) came to pastor Hillside and served until his retirement in August 1991. Al Allen followed Pastor Starkey as interim pastor through 1992.

"Together We Build"

In January 1986, the church voted to build a new auditorium and education building. Money was sought in part by a mailout to over 36,000 Southern Baptist churches and missions. Since this did not bring in needed funds, plans were approved to remodel the original building. A work team from Alabama came and helped complete this project. Sunday School attendance increased to 50 by October 1987, and the 1987 Vacation Bible School average attendance was 71. In March 1990, the church approved a recommendation to begin a building program, and by December 1990 the building fund had

grown to \$65,000.

Construction of the new building began April 15, 1991, when the first of several work teams from Mississippi arrived to start the project. Ed Armstrong, assisted by Hillside former pastor Darryl Hatley, from Texas, served as superintendent of the building program. Max Huff (Marjorie), a retired construction contractor from Arizona, loaded up a trailer and brought up all the tools needed by the volunteers. The Huffs worked all summer; his tools and know-how proved to be a double blessing. City inspectors gave a temporary occupancy permit, and the first service was held in the new building on July 19, 1992, followed by a dedication service on September 20, 1992.

Danny McMullins was called as interim and then as pastor in Spring of 1993. After about three years of ministry at Hillside, Brother McMullins resigned effective January 6, 1995.

Matthew Fries (Stephanie) was called as pastor and began his ministry July 23, 1995. Since Matt has come, Hillside has experienced growth. It has now become necessary to hold two Sunday morning worship services -one at 8:30 and the second at 11 :00.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Gary Loeffler came in view of a call at the end of July 2005 and officially became pastor in September of that year. Pastor Loeffler

retired at the end of July 2017. After a short period of transition under the leadership of Mike Procter, Hillside Baptist called and voted in their current lead pastor, Blake (Rae) Hart in April of 2018.

Hillside Baptist church continues to live out its mission to be a light to the city of Anchorage for

the gospel of Jesus Christ. Its current vision is to Live the Faith, Share the Faith, and Defend the Faith. This vision is upheld by five important values: Sound biblical teaching, discipleship, diversity, hospitality, and fellowship. Hillside Baptist Church members believe that through this vision and these values, they will continue to be an even more faithful witness for Christ to the city of Anchorage and the state of Alaska, than they have been for almost 50 years.

Hoonah Baptist Mission

Hoonah, Alaska

Date Begun: 2007

Date Constituted: September 25, 2006

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Sitka

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Hoonah Baptist Mission started in 2007.

Brian Powell became pastor in 2008 the 15 member church which held Sunday worship, Sunday school, and Wednesday evening services.

Pastor Powell became ill and resigned in 2008.

Hoonah Baptist Mission began a thrift store, laundry, and food bank in 2010. About 1000 lbs of food is given out each year. Many are reached through the ministries of the thrift store and food bank. Bill and Ruth Brown direct these ministries.

While attending a conference at Tongass Baptist Association the Browns were contacted by Kerry Chadwick, in preparation for his doctoral thesis, he asked if the mission would participate in his

research. He wanted to skype/telecast from First Baptist Sitka to southeast communities. Pastor Chadwick suggested Hoonah Mission become a mission of First Baptist Church, and Hoonah has maintained 4 to 12 members since that time.

Hoonah Baptist Mission has held Vacation Bible School every year since starting. Brian Powell formed the concept of forming inflatables, that we use every year.

Christmas Shoes Box Ministry was instituted by Sitka Baptist Church in 2017. The Mission continues to support this ministry, giving out about 72 shoe boxes each year.

Hoonah Baptist Mission has been involved with Celebrate Recovery which is on going.

The Hoonah mission has five Board members: Christ Budke, John Lacy, Joe Boney, Tina Martin, Haddy Dalton, The directors are Bill and Ruth Brown
Hoonah Baptist Mission is currently pastorless.

Immanuel Baptist Church

Anchorage, Alaska

Date Begun: August 9, 1953

Date Constituted: November 17, 1955

Sponsoring Church: Eastchester Baptist Church, Anchorage

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

A Mission Begins

In the early years of the 1950s as Southern Baptist work continued to develop in the Anchorage area, a need was felt for a church south of the city in what was then a sparsely settled, homesteading area. A possible site for a church in this area became available when a homestead bordering Potter Road (now Old Seward Highway) was subdivided and put up for sale. The purchase of a lot in this area was negotiated by the Chugach Baptist Association. The Woman's Missionary Union of the Association supplied the \$500 for the down payment from funds received in the previous year's Territorial Mission Offering. A quonset hut on the property, which had served as a residence for the homesteading family, became the meeting place for the new mission. The first service was held on August 9, 1953, with 14 in Sunday School and eight returning for Training Union. On the second Sunday, there were 18 present for morning worship, five of whom presented themselves for church membership, and the Potter Road Mission was on its way.

The Eastchester Baptist Church, Anchorage, voted to sponsor the new work. (The Eastchester Baptist Church was later renamed Fairview Baptist Church which, still later, merged with Grandview Church.) MS gt. C.H. Thurmond, USAF, Sunday School Superintendent in the sponsoring church, served as pastor of the little mission from its beginning. His hard work and dependence upon the Lord resulted in solid growth of the new work in every phase of its ministry. His genuine enthusiasm was contagious, and the whole congregation joined in making things happen at Potter Road Mission. An example of this cooperative spirit is seen

in the first building expansion project. During a very successful July 1954 Vacation Bible School, it became apparent by Wednesday of the first week that the building was too small when there was not room enough to place chairs for all the children at the same time. Brother Thurmond brought the matter up that night at the monthly business meeting. The members voted to secure materials and build a 12' x 20' extension to the quonset hut in order that they might be able to seat both children and parents on commencement night. So, while Vacation Bible School concluded, the outside of the new addition was completed. It was used and was filled, almost to capacity, on commencement night.

A Church is Born

About two weeks following the close of the 1954 Vacation Bible School, the new addition was filled again when friends from sister churches in the association gathered on July 18 to witness the constituting of the Potter Road Mission into Immanuel Baptist

Church. Twenty-three charter members answered the roll call, and another New Testament church was born. The same spirit of eagerness to reach out into the community and win the lost which characterized the Potter Road Mission was much in evidence in the life of the newly organized church. When Immanuel celebrated its first anniversary in July 1955, it reported a membership of 54, more than double the 23 charter members. The



Sunday School enrollment had climbed from 38 to 84. A training program looking toward Sunday School teacher certification had been adopted under which 30 awards had been earned. The Training Union enrollment had risen to 40 in five unions. By the year's end

the mission organization had grown to include, besides a WMU, a Brotherhood, RA Chapter, GAs, and Sunbeam Band.

Also, during the first year as a church, Immanuel again outgrew its facilities, applied for and received a loan from the Home Mission Board for the construction of a church building. Work began on the structure during the summer of 1955. The following year in October, the church had the joyous experience of dedicating its new building to the Lord.

Pastors Come To Labor and Love

First pastor C.H. Thurmond served the church until his rotation by the Air Force in late 1956. He was followed in the pastorate by Rev. James H. Rose, who had begun Baptist work in Valdez, Alaska. The new pastor arrived on the field March 3, 1957. A carpenter by trade, Brother Rose led in completing the new church building and in converting the old quonset hut into a residence for his family. Under his vigorous leadership the church experienced phenomenal growth reaching the highest point in its now 42-year history both in additions and attendance. Records for the 1958 associational year show 65 additions of which 38 were for baptism, and a Sunday School enrollment of 190 with an average attendance of 98 for the year.

Following the resignation of Brother Rose early in 1959, CWO James Henderson, Ft. Richardson, Alaska, served the church in an interim capacity for several months. The church then extended a call to former pastor C.H. Thurmond, who was just completing 20 years with the Air Force, to return as pastor. He accepted, arriving in January 1960 and served until May 1962. He was followed in the pastorate by Rev. Samuel Ganaway, who served from June 1962 to April 1966. Following the resignation of Brother Ganaway, the church called Frank Burger, who was serving a tour in the U.S. Army. Brother Burger served the church from August 1966 to December 1967. The church then called another military pastor, MSgt. Johnnie Newton, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. He led the church from March 1968 through June 1970.

Following Brother Newton's two years of service, Rev. Wesley Pruitt came as pastor. Brother Pruitt was no stranger to Alaska, having surrendered to the ministry at Grandview Baptist Church while serving a tour at Ft. Richardson. Resigning from the military, he had completed college and seminary and was ready to return to Alaska when Immanuel extended a call. He served the church from July 1, 1970, to June 1, 1975. A few months after the resignation of Rev. Pruitt, Charles Simmons, who had just retired from military service, accepted the call of the church to serve as interim pastor. Brother Simmons was pastor from January to May 1976. The church then called Rev. Danny Riggs, who served from June 1976 through September 1977. Brother Riggs was followed in an interim capacity by Rev. Ira Crump, who subsequently was called as pastor in June 1978 serving until January 1987. In June 1987 Douglas Rose, who was serving a tour in the military at Elmendorf Air Force Base, was called as pastor. He served through October 1990. Following Brother Rose's rotation, Richard A. Miller assisted the church as interim

pastor, coming in May 1991. Immanuel's present pastor is Don Ashley, who accepted the pastorate July 19, 1992.

As is reflected above, Immanuel has benefited greatly from the military in terms of pastoral leadership. Of the 14 pastors and interim pastors in Immanuel's history, six have been actively serving in the U.S. Army or Air Force. It is of interest also that two of the other 14 who were not military connected at the time they were serving at Immanuel are now serving in the military as chaplains -Samuel Ganaway with the Navy and Danny Riggs with the Air Force.

Despite the dedicated, faithful service of these leaders, Immanuel

has been through its history, and still is, a very small church. Even so, great and lasting good has been accomplished. In excess of 900 souls have presented themselves for membership, almost half on profession of faith for baptism. Tithes and offerings from this small group



total well in excess of a million dollars, more than 20 percent of which has been invested in mission causes in the community, state, nation and the world.

Current opportunities for outreach in the community are increasing daily with the completion of multiple-housing complexes within a stone's throw of the church. Our prayer is, as we face the future, that we may have the vision and zeal to share ourselves, our church, and our Savior with these new neighbors.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Immanuel Baptist Church celebrated 60 years in 2015. Reverend Al Thomerson has served as pastor since October 2006 and was preceded by Reverend Mark Goodman. Gene Madaris served as interim pastor between Rev. Goodman and Rev. Thomerson. Immanuel has held an annual Gospel Music Festival every July for the past twelve years. The church has completed many upgrades to the facility in the past 10 years including installation of an elevator, new windows throughout the building, and a completely repaved parking lot. The church plans to install a new boiler system and make upgrades to the baptistry in 2020. Members affectionately refer to our church as "The Little Country Church in the Middle of the City."

Journey Church

Wasilla, Alaska

Date Begun: 2013

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Willow

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Having lived in Alaska previously, Bill and Becky Little returned in 2010 with the desire and calling to plant a church. Gary Bearce in Wasilla was interested in assisting the Littles. It was not until June 2013 they found a location, had a name, and proper tax documents.

The message Bill felt called to preach was forgiveness. Since their first official worship service on Easter of 2014, they have experienced God at work. There have been over a dozen saved, seven baptisms, four mission teams have come to help, four mission trips have been taken, and ten people have been sent on short term mission. They have a Window to

Widow Ministries, hundreds have been saved in Africa, the church has raised over \$1,500.00 for missions. They have sponsored three free clothing give-a-ways, and four block parties, Journey at the Lake, two classes of Grief Share, and a church-planter mentoring cohort. Journey Church has helped over 100 people through their thrift store and given over \$5,000.00 in goods and services in mission support for Africa and Galena. They have served 66 Thanksgiving meals, focused on vets. Journey Church Live averages 75 in attendance.

On April 15, 2018, Journey Church celebrated their 5th Anniversary.



Juneau Korean Church

Juneau, Alaska

Date Begun: 1996

Date Constituted: August 28, 1996

Sponsoring Church: First Korean Baptist Church, Anchorage

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Juneau Korean Church called Kwang Kyun (Peter) Oh as pastor and he began March 26, 2009.

In addition to their support of the Cooperative Program, the church supports the work of the Presbyterian pastor, Joy Chang, in Kake with a community feeding project.



Korean Language school, 2013



Juneau Korean Church, tenth anniversary

Ketchikan Filipino Baptist Mission

Ketchikan, Alaska

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Date Begun: 2010

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Pastors who have served the Ketchikan Filipino Baptist Mission are Jesse (Wilma) Misa, 2010-2013; and Rhys (Susil) Mateo, 2014-2019. The current pastor is Rey Naval, assisted by Brandon Padang.

Kiana Baptist Mission

Kiana, Alaska

Date Begun: 1958

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

A Vacation Bible School

In July 1956, Dick Miller, Kotzebue pastor/missionary, conducted the first Baptist service in Kiana, a village of about 200 residents. Valeria Sherard, missionary at Selawik, and summer missionary Allen Morain conducted a Vacation Bible School in the Geffe's old house on the beach. After the VBS, many residents of Kiana expressed the desire to have a Baptist church. In 1957, Vacation Bible School was held in Lawrence Shuerch's warehouse. During the following winter Dick Miller occasionally came to Kiana and conducted home Bible studies. In 1958, construction on the chapel building was begun.

Resident Missionary

Valeria Sherard moved to Kiana in January 1959, where she lived and labored for the next 17 years. Valeria lived in one room of Nellie Baldwin's two-room house until living quarters were built at the back of the mission building in 1962. Within six days of her arrival, Valeria announced the beginning of Sunbeams, GAS and RAs.

In the summer of 1956, four Kiana residents followed the Lord in believer's baptism by immersion in the cold waters of the Kobuk River. The river bank was lined with interested on-lookers. Following the baptismal service, Johnny Smith, a 70-year old man said, "Look, I want you to see the new Johnny." When Johnny observed the Lord's Supper for the first time that day, he took the bread and said aloud, "Uhte-que," which means "too small." Elsie Hunnicutt was also baptized that day, and she became a children's Sunday School teacher. Valeria held a private teacher's meeting with Elsie each week. Valeria taught Elsie the Bible lesson first; then she taught Elsie how to teach the children the lesson.

Area-wide youth camps were held near Kiana because this vil-

lage was centrally located. Valeria planned and directed the annual camps. Charlie Sheldon brought boys and girls 150 miles by boat from Kobuk. Willie Johnson brought the Selawik campers down the Selawik River then crossed Selawik Lake and into the Kobuk Delta and up the Kobuk River for a trip of about 100 miles. Those from Kotzebue also travelled about 100 miles across Kobuk Lake and up the Kobuk River to Kiana. Camp food was provided by the members of Woman's Missionary Union throughout the Territory.

Valeria Sherard provided a graded Sunday School by scheduling different ages all day long on Sunday. She visited every home and ministered to each family. Valeria endeared herself to the people of Kiana; and in October of 1994, the village of Kiana honored Valeria for her years of service by giving her a trip back to Kiana and designating the days of her visit as "Valeria Sherard Days." The days were filled with pot-luck meals, playing games Valeria had taught them as children, and viewing slides of her years in Kiana, etc.

Visiting Missionaries

Harley and Martha Shield served Kiana as visiting missionaries for 15 years. Earl Gardner then served three years followed by Darrell and Phyllis White's faithful service until 1988. There has been no residing pastor since 1988. Harley and Martha Shield continued visiting Kiana on the weekends until 1993, and held Sunday School, conducted worship service and did visitation.

Sid Martin became the visiting missionary until the building was destroyed by fire in 1994. The building has not been rebuilt, but plans are to rebuild and have the mission operating again by the end of 1996. Until the fire, Vacation Bible

School was held each summer with up to 75 children enrolled. The goal is to have a mission pastor reside in Kiana and serve Kiana and Selawik.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Men who have ministered in Kiana are John (Kim) Piepmeier, October 1999-September 2010; Richard (Tracy) Eunice, 2013-2014; and David Youngblood, 2015-present.



Kobuk Baptist Mission

Kobuk, Alaska

Date Begun: 1953

Date Constituted:

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Kotzebue

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

A Letter

In January 1953, Charlie Sheldon wrote a letter to Dick Miller, interim pastor of Fairbanks Native Baptist Mission, in which he said, "For 30 years we have no church and Kobuk people want Baptist to send missionary." In response to this letter, Dick Miller visited Kobuk in February, 1953, in conjunction with a visit to Kotzebue. While in Kobuk, a village of about 40-60 people, Dick led the first Baptist church service in this section of the Arctic. As a result of God's leadership, Dick Miller was appointed by the Home Mission Board and moved to Kotzebue in June 1953, to begin Baptist work in the Kotzebue-Kobuk area.

A Log Church Building

In March 1954, on Dick Miller's second visit to Kobuk, the people of the village determined to build a log church building. Funds given by Baptist Tabernacle in Atlanta, Georgia, were used to pay some Kobuk men to cut and float logs down the river to the village for the mission building. In July 1954, Dick Miller, John Dickerson (pastor of Native Baptist, Fairbanks), Donald Rollins (military, member of Calvary, Anchorage), Charlie Sheldon, Elmer Ward, John Custer and other village folks erected the church building. Charlie Sheldon conducted services in his home until the building was completed in May 1955.

A Baptismal Service

In the summer of 1955, the first baptismal service held in the Arctic was held at Kobuk when Charlie Sheldon was baptized by immersion. Charlie Sheldon served as mission pastor for about two years with very little salary or other benefits. He was instrumental in leading half of the village to an acceptance of Jesus as Savior. Charlie led his old mother to the Lord, and one day she told Charlie, "I am ready now. I want to be baptized like Jesus was before I die." Ina was baptized in the summer of 1956, following the breakup and thaw of the Kobuk River. That day, the water temperature was just above freezing and Dick Miller asked Ina if she would like to wait for the water to warm up. She replied, "No, I might not be here then." She was 91 years old.

A Match Box

Charlie Sheldon led the people to bring their tithes and offerings and to give to the special mission offerings. Once the Lottie Moon Mission Offering envelopes were collected and placed in a large match box and mailed to the Alaska Baptist Convention Office. When bookkeeper Bernice Gillespie opened the package she found each envelope contained a modest cash offering for foreign missions.

US-2 Missionaries

Two Home Mission Board US-2 missionary couples served Kobuk/Shungnak Missions: Norman and Gunita Harrell (1966- 68) and Mike and Virgie Brown (1968-70). The Harrells are senior foreign missionaries in Portugal; the Browns went on to serve as Director of Missions in Wisconsin.

Other Pastors/Missionaries

Alan Burdick served the Kobuk people for two years. Harley Shield was visiting missionary and pastor of the Kobuk Mission for

14 years; Ray Addy moved to Ambler in 1987 and served Shungnak and Kobuk as well as Ambler. Sid and Marsha Martin became the visiting missionaries in 1991, and they visited Kobuk on a rotating basis with the other four missions. There is a one room pastor's cabin next to the church, and the goal is to have a mission pastor to serve Kobuk, Shungnak and Ambler.

A Deteriorating Building

The mission structure in Kobuk is not usable because of deterioration. However, a building fund has been established by the Baptists in anticipation of constructing a new building. In the meantime, the Baptists are attending and supporting the Friends Church on Sunday. The Baptists are allowed to use the Friends Church for weekday activities and when the Baptist missionary visits. When the Martins visit, a service is held in the afternoon for the children and an evening service for the adults. The First Baptist Church, Kotzebue, provides Sunday School literature that is used by the Baptists as well as the Friends. This spirit of cooperation is a miracle within itself and evidence of the changing power of the Gospel.

ADDITIONS TO EARLY CHURCH HISTORY

This information came from Bernice Sheldon whose husband, Charlie, was the driving force to bring a church to Kobuk.

"Charlie's mother's name was Annie Marks

I have found it interesting how God puts certain individuals in our path to lead us to him. Charlie told the story of when he was 9 years old and some pastor came to Kobuk and preached the gospel to the village. When the pastor asked who would want to come to Jesus Charlie ran forward to say yes. He got a new testament and read it. At fishcamp on the Kobuk River in the summers while a teen he would gather neighbors together and they would have church with him reading a passage and telling how he understood it. Women would sing songs they learned from pastors that had come past. That appears to be the beginning of the Baptist work that you still see there in 2020.

Seeing Charlie's faith and love for God made me realize that I knew things about God and Jesus but I had no relationship with God. I sought to know God and during my married years while teaching in Kotzebue. I was baptized at the Kotzebue Baptist church while Charlie was at our home by the Kobuk River as a statement that I wanted to please God more than Charlie. This commitment has led me to going to Youth With a Mission after I retired and doing various mission work in winters in the Philippines and Siberia.

I was through Kobuk in 2000 and got to see the church Charlie had helped to build had just been raised higher because of breakup flooding and the building looked much as it had in the late 60s and 70s. Charlie went to be with the Lord in fall 1979. Last year I was able to meet Luke and Sarah and hear of their work there."

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Men who have served the church in Kiana are Brad (Cindy) Keller, 2002; Dillon Stanley, 2003; John (Terri) Forrester, 2007-2008; and Luke (Sarah) Stewart, 2008-present.

The Stewarts also serve the church in Shungnak.

Korean New Central Baptist Church

Anchorage, Alaska

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Date Begun: 2005
Date Constituted:
Sponsoring Church:

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

The current pastor is Sam Lee. Pastor Lee has served the church since 2004.

Lighthouse Community Church

Kenai, Alaska

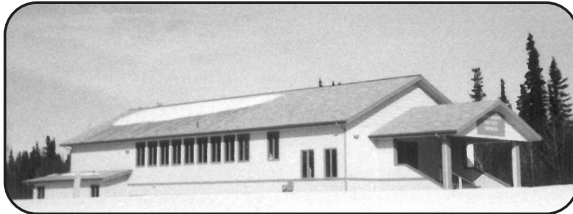
Date Begun: February 3, 1985
Date Constituted: December 28, 1989
Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Kenai

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

(Formerly North Kenai Baptist Church)

Beginnings

The North Kenai Baptist Church (formerly known as North Road Baptist Mission), began under the leadership of Pastor Roy Williams and the Missions Committee of First Baptist Church, Kenai. The first service was held on February 3, 1985, in the home of Joe and Janie Tieskie, led by Elmer Sizmore, Director of Missions for Tustumena Association. Only five were in attendance for the first service; however within two months there was an average attendance of thirty-two, with a high attendance of 48.



From the beginning, the mission voted to financially support missions through the SBC cooperative program, the Tustumena Baptist Association and the Alaska Baptist Family Services and other annual missions offerings. During the first year several guest missionary speakers shared mission information with the group. In the summer of 1985, three Backyard Bible Clubs were held in the North Kenai area.

Church Planter

On June 1, 1985, Ben and Evelyn Sheeran arrived on the field as Church Planters. The first service was held in the North Kenai Elementary Gymnasium on November 10, 1986. In December, the mission contributed \$185 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. In January of 1985, the first Baptist Women's meeting was held with five ladies and five children for Mission Friends.

Property Purchased on North Spur Highway

In January 1986, three acres of land was purchased on the North Spur Highway with the help of a loan from First Baptist Church, Kenai. The first unit building was completed in October 1986 with the help of First Baptist Church, Kenai, and work teams from Mississippi and Texas.

Pastoral Leadership

The first leader was Ben Sherran, Church-Planter Apprentice, who was appointed by the Home Mission Board. He served from August 1985-November 1986.

The mission called Bill Branch (Elizabeth) pastor of First Baptist Church, Sitka, to be the first pastor. Brother Bill has been the pastor since February 1, 1987. Under his leadership, the church was constituted February 4, 1990. The church indebtedness has been reduced from \$190,000 to \$100,000, and used solid oak pews were purchased.

Church Growth and Outreach Ministries

There are currently 85 resident members with 94 enrolled in Sunday School and an average attendance of 45 in Sunday School and Worship. The church has a graded Sunday School, an adult, children/youth choir and an orchestra. Annually the church has Vacation Bible School, Backyard Bible Clubs, two-three revivals, day camps, Winter Bible Study and various other activities. During the ten years the church has been in existence, there has been an average of nine baptisms each year with at total number of 84.

During the month of June, the church provides meals to the transient cannery workers in the area. Throughout the year the church provides food for the needy and provides Bibles and other items to the local prisons in December. These are exciting days in N ikiski,

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Alaska, and in North Kenai Church.

Pastors and leaders

Bill Branch, pastor, February 1987-October 1996; Marlin (Neva) Starnes, interim pastor, October-December 1996; Denver (Debbie) Copeland, pastor, December 1996-October 2008; 2002 Corey McGee, children, youth and music pastor, 2002-2010; Randy (Destiny) Lewis, interim pastor, 2008, and pastor 2009-2010; Corey McGee, interim pastor, 2010-2011, and pastor 2011-2013; Charles (Gloria) Thompson, Don (Carolyn) Hayhurst and Bill (Sharon) Messer, Transitional Pastors, 2013-2015; Dan (Raine) Smouse, pastor, October 2015-present; Steve (Sharley) Henry, Director of Worship Ministries, August 2017-present; Matt (Nicole) Tirado, Director of Youth Ministry, May 2020-present.

Building and ground improvements

1997: sound system installed, outdoor sign and reader board installed, handicap ramp built, parking lot enlarged

1998: trees cleared, circular drive built, parking lot again enlarged

Lighthouse Community Church; Kenai (cont.)

1999: 4500 sq. ft. education building built, outside lighting installed
 2000: original building remodeled, new entry with covered drive installed
 2001: storage area built, lower floor entry added between buildings
 2002: added parsonage, apartment added in church
 2003: shower trailer with eight stalls and independent boiler system built
 2004: educational space expanded, multi-purpose room added, sanctuary extended, administration/youth building built
 2005: added handicap restroom, cry room, sound room, ball fields, two volleyball courts, two basketball courts, soccer field, picnic area, and half mile walking track

Ministries of note

More than 500 people were fed at the 1999 Community Appreciation day held by the church.

World Changers ministry began in summer months of 2000 and continued until 2011. During that ministry many homes were painted, repaired, additions built, and handicap accessible improvements made in the community.

Ministry in the community was highlighted over the years. Church volunteers served breakfast at the local Nikiski elementary school from 2001-2005.

The church changed its name from North Kenai Baptist Church to "Lighthouse Community Church." in 2003.

The preschool known as Lighthouse Christian School opened in August 2003, with Ginnie (Handley) Hall serving as Preschool Administrator. The following year an elementary school was added to the existing preschool. Kandice Hightower came in 2010 to serve as Lighthouse Christian School Director until August 2013 when the school closed.

In 2013 church attendance dropped significantly during as several large businesses closed and people moved out of the area. With a continued decline in members and attendance, the church formed a leadership team from the remaining members to seek assistance of a transitional pastor.

The church voted to request the Alaska Baptist Convention to oversee the church as a mission work and assist financially and in obtaining transitional pastors,

Due to the membership declining to less than 25 families, the church voted to "mothball" the large church building and began meeting in the administrative/apartment building. The leadership team began remodeling the large church building with the goal of moving the services back to the large building if attendance reached 50 by Easter Sunday of 2015. That goal was met and the church resumed services in the newly remodeled building.

The church name was officially change on 4/28/15, to Lighthouse Community Church in order to drop North Kenai Baptist Church from the name with the State of Alaska.

Ministry Highlights 1985-2015

- Backyard Bible Clubs/VBS have been held annually.
- Sunday School -all ages
- Preschool/ Children's Worship
- AWANA program
- Wednesday Evening activities for children and youth
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study
- Wednesday Night Community Dinners
- Monday-Friday Preschool and Elementary School

- Women's ministry
- WMU/Crisis Pregnancy Center Sewing
- Christmas Play ministries
- Youth Worship
- Youth Evangelism conferences
- Youth Retreats
- School Breakfast Program
- Discipleship training
- World Changers ministry (in and out of state)
- High School Bible studies
- Interpretive dance ministry
- Guitar lessons taught
- Archery lessons taught
- Sports Camps ministry
- All night prayer vigils
- Praise Team music ministry
- Bus and Van ministry
- Community Food Pantry ministry
- Senior Center Bible study
- Prison ministry Bible study
- Youth Thrift Store ministry
- AA Meetings ministry
- Gideons ministry
- Sports hospitality room lunches
- Housing visiting High School sports teams
- Disaster Relief Ministry
- Hosted North Peninsula Chamber of Commerce lunches
- Combined Nikiski Community-wide Services conducted

with five other area churches

- Senior's Club House held at Retha (Hall) Veal's
- Friendship Rescue Mission
- Weekend Camp-in for homeless youth
- Community Concerts
- Paintball games
- Youth all-night camps, games and bonfires
- School backpacks distribution to community
- Assist Agencies when requested, Red Cross, Crisis Pregnancy Center, Love, Inc., Boys and Girls Club, United Way, Rock (local crisis group); Nikiski Senior Center, Alaska CDC (rural development), USDA (rural development), PAC (state rural development).

CHURCH STATISTICS

- Present Membership: 60
- Capacity of Building: 200
- Attendance Averages: Sunday School: 20; Worship Service: 50; Wednesday Prayer: 7

Church Today

Lighthouse Community Church continues to grow in attendance. There is Sunday School for all ages, children's worship and nursery available.

Future ministries planned

Father's Day Bar-be-que, Backyard Bible Clubs, Family Night Picnic and hosting work teams to do repair work on the parsonage and church educational wing.

The church wants to see the community provided with a place where the gospel is preached to the lost and believers can grow in spiritual maturity and Bible knowledge. The church also desires to be a place where the needs of the community are met and the LORD glorified.

Malamalama Fou (New Light) Church

Whittier, Alaska

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Date Begun: 2013

Sponsoring Church: University Baptist Church, Anchorage

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Su'e Su'e Jr. was the pastor, 2013-2018. The church is currently meeting with the Whittier Christian Church.

Montana Creek Baptist Church

Talkeetna, Alaska

Date Begun: June 2, 1968

Date Constituted: May 7, 2003

Sponsoring Church: Grandview Baptist Church, Anchorage

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Homesteaders Desire A Church

Montana Creek Baptist Mission was begun by Grandview Baptist Church, Anchorage, in 1968 because there were the Covington, Goodwin, Atwater, and Theodore families living in the Talkeetna cutoff area who desired a church nearby. Missionary/Pastor James and Fern Akin, lived in Palmer and served the mission from its beginning on June 2, 1968, through the summer of 1974.

Temporary Meeting Places

The mission met in several temporary locations during the first twelve months. They first met in an old school house, then moved to Tom and Nancy Covington's home. Services were held at another homestead cabin, as well as in a borrowed tent pitched in a gravel pit. In October 1969, the mission moved into its own 24x40 building located at Mile 98 on the Parks Highway.



"tent of meeting"

Pastoral Leadership

During James and Fern Akins' ministry, attendance went from a low of four in 1968 to a high of 44 in 1974. B.J. Dier, another Missionary/Pastor in Matanuska/Susitna Valley, also served the mission. However, for four years Grandview deacons drove the 98 miles each Sunday. They opened the building, started the fire, picked up the

children, conducted the services, took the children home and drove back to Anchorage. Chuck Smith, Marvin Pelfrey, Ken Kendrick and Tom Covington kept the doors of Montana Creek Mission open for four long years. Attendance during this period was



1968

between 15-25.

In September 1979, Pastor Bob Witt of the Kashwitna Church began serving Montana Creek Mission, also. Bob remembers that first winter at the mission: "There were seven Sundays that it was -30 degrees in the building. My wife, Susie, played the piano with her gloves on." Bob and Susie served the Montana Creek Mission from

September 1979-January 1985. During his ministry several professions of faith and other additions were reported. Many building improvements were made including the addition of classrooms and bathrooms, a new sign was erected, carpet was laid in the sanctuary and a new furnace was installed. A small mobile home was set up on the property, a well put down, and septic system put in for the church and the mobile home.

Two Mission Service Corp couples provided leadership for the Montana Creek Mission. Paul and Mae Snyder from California served from October 1984-September 1985 and Ira and Memory Alley from Mississippi helped for three months in 1985. Both couples made significant contributions. Paul and Mae rallied the people to conduct a Vacation Bible School without aid from summer missionaries or other outside help. Paul also completed the addition to the mobile home. The Alley's major contribution was to get Grandview in touch with Randy and Kathy Daniels through the assistance of Hollis Bryant in Mississippi. Randy and Kathy arrived on the field December 27, 1985. The mission grew significantly under the Daniels' leadership. The Daniels family also grew with the birth of two daughters, Rachel and Susanna.

Permanent Building Programs

In the summer of 1987, a new parsonage was built by two Alabama "Work Teams" and Grandview members: Charles Dixon, Bill Fickey, Ron Dalby, Allen West, Brian Roten, A.B. Colyar and others. Randy and Kathy Daniels were most thankful when they were able to move out of the little trailer into the new parsonage.

The mission grew to a point of needing more room. Construction on a new building was begun in the summer of 1990. The old building was incorporated into the new building to make the new

permanent facility. Mac and Delorece Elrod from Spring City, Tennessee, directed the building project and became an

important part of the church family, still keeping in touch. Once again God provided ample workers. Volunteers from Alabama, Virginia, Florida, Mississippi, and California, as well as the locals and workers from Grandview Baptist.

Folks who will always be remembered for their work on the Montana Creek Mission building include: Randy Daniels, Dave and Kristin Johnson, Glenn Valentine, Bob Perrin, Mac Elrod for



new building 1990

Montana Creek Baptist Church; Talkeetna (cont.)

the concrete and block work; Randy Daniels and Mac Elrod for the framing as well as the electrical and the plumbing; Brother Randy,



Ernie Graham, Rick and Jo Perrin, Carol Perrin, Glenn Valentine for most of the finish work; Carl Roten, Jim Stuart and Lee Pridgen from Grandview who installed the heating system. Thanks to all their hard work, Montana Creek Baptist Mission now has an attractive,

bright facility from which to reach out into the community with the gospel message.

In June of 1994, a work crew from North Oxford Baptist Church in Oxford, Mississippi came up and helped pour walkways and finish some of the ceilings in the basement of the building. In July, a group of Baptist women and one man came from North Oxford to help in Vacation Bible School. Some of these returned in 1995 along with new folks who came to help with Vacation Bible School.

Gerald Etherton Sr. was called as pastor of Montana Creek. He and his wife, Alice, arrived in July 1994. The 94-95 year was a time of blessing for the mission especially in the area of youth. The number of youth attending youth meetings often exceeded that of the worship services due to the faithful work of Mike and Beth Matthews." Montana Creek was ninth in ratio for baptisms in the Alaska

Baptist Convention in 94-95 with a 1 to 5.67 ratio.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Montana Creek Baptist Mission remained a mission until 2003 when it was constituted as a church. The church outgrew the building built in 1990. A new addition to the church began in 2005 and was mostly completed in 2006. The old building serves as an education building. The new addition was paid in full and the church became debt-free in 2013. To celebrate becoming debt-free there was a note-burning celebration in 2014 with over 140 people in attendance. Pastor Randy Graham from Grandview Baptist Church brought the message.

Montana Creek Baptist Church installed an electronic two-sided sign in August 2016. This is the only sign on the Parks Highway from Anchorage to Fairbanks that has a Christian message. Many thanks to the 2000 Club and Hatcher Pass Association for their financial support.

Montana Creek Baptist Church Pastors who have served the church since 1994:

- Gerald (Alice) Etherton 1994-2000
- John (Henrietta) Mortensen 2001-2003
- Interim Pastor Jeff Anderson 2003-2004
- Interim Pastor Bucky Smithon 2004
- Doug (Marybeth) Briney 2004-2007
- Harold (Linda) Conrad September 2008 – Present.

Moose Creek Baptist Church North Pole, Alaska

Date Begun: November 1963

Date Constituted: March 22, 1964; reconstituted June 26, 1991

Sponsoring Church: Salcha Baptist Church

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Eielson Park Mission

In November 1963, Salcha Baptist Church began Eielson Park Mission in a trailer court at Mile 24, Richardson Highway (now Old Richardson Hwy.), near the main gate of Eielson Air Force Base. The first services were home prayer meetings. The Salcha church purchased a lot in the court and moved a house trailer from its church and attached it to a wannigan already on the site. The church then made arrangements to secure a quonset hut as a meeting place.

The February 1964 Alaska Baptist Messenger reported that "people packed like sardines" into the mission on February 2 with a record attendance of 73 in Sunday School. When the song leader announced the next hymn as "Bring Them In" he noticed people glancing around probably wondering where they would sit if they brought them in!

Eielson Park Baptist Church

On March 22, 1964, Eidson Park Baptist Church was constituted and George Wilkinson, who had been ordained a few days earlier, was called as pastor. The young church had phenomenal growth, averaging 66 in Sunday School and 73 in worship.

After the 1967 Fairbanks flood, volunteer workers from the Lower 48 assisted in the construction of a new building for Eidson Park. Rev. Joe Fallon, one of the volunteer flood workers, was later called

as pastor and led in the completion of the first unit building in 1967-68. In 1971, Eidson Park secured permission to run Sunday School buses on Eielson AFB. This approval paved the way for Anchorage churches to later be granted permission to operate church buses on Elmendorf AFB.

Moose Creek Baptist Church

In 1979, the church voted a name change to Moose Creek Baptist Church. A year later (1980-81), the church broke ground and constructed a new sanctuary with seating capacity of 350 and educational space in a daylight basement. A Home Mission Board church loan was secured to provide funds for this new building. Ben Kimbrough (Shirley) who was pastor from February 6, 1983, retired April 1, 1996, after 13 years with the church. During this same period,



Moose Creek and First Baptist, North Pole, co-sponsored the beginning of Cross Roads Baptist Mission, North Pole.

In 1986, a broken sprinkler system caused a flood that total-

ly devastated the basement. As a result, the basement was entirely remodeled; at that same time the entries on each side of the building were torn down and a single entry and foyer were constructed. In

1987, the church completed a two-stall heated bus barn with the help of volunteers from Alabama. The septic system was replaced in 1989 at a cost of \$10,000.

The property between the church building and the new Richardson Highway was purchased and trees were felled to clear the way for a private driveway to be installed in 1992-93. Until this was done, the building was not visible from the New Richardson Highway and was only accessible from the Old Richardson Highway. A large sign was erected on the Richardson Highway to mark the access road to the church from the highway. The church became debt-free in October 1994.

Ben Kimbrough (Shirley) who was pastor from February 6, 1983, retired April 1, 1996, after 13 years of effective ministry. Jeff Baxter, associate pastor, was called as pastor effective April 1, 1996.

Other Pastors

Other pastors serving Eielson Park/Moose Creek were: John Dickerson, Billy Caine, Terry Lowen, Jerry Taylor, Alfred C. Allen and Bill G. Duncan (interim)

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Jeffrey (Judi) Baxter served the church 1999-2011. John (Cindy) Bills was called as pastor in November, 2012. The church has endured both good times and bad times, but through it all God has been abundant in His grace, love and provision. We look forward, with great anticipation, to all that the months and years ahead hold.

Moose Pass Community Church

Moose Pass, Alaska

Date Begun: April 1971

Date Constituted:

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Kenai

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Laymen Led

Mr. and Mrs. John Berkeland, Anchorage, built a log house in Moose Pass in which to live and also use for Sunday School each week. From April of 1971 to June 1972, Maurice Murdock, a layman from First Baptist Church, Soldotna, served as lay preacher for this work.

Property Purchased and Mobile Chapel Moved on to Property

A parcel of ground measuring 100' x 199' was purchased by the Alaska Baptist Convention in Moose Pass for a sum of \$3,500 for a mission site. In April of 1972, First Baptist Church, Kenai, received permission from the Convention to move a double wide trailer from Mile 15 on North Kenai Road to the property in Moose Pass to be used as a church building. First Baptist Church, Kenai, began sponsorship of the Moose Pass Mission in April 1972.

Pastors/Missionaries

In July 1972, Brother Mike and Virginia McKay were called as missionaries to Moose Pass. The McKays served the mission until June 4, 1976, at which time they moved to a mission assignment in Idaho.

Rev. Felix Green (Doris) accepted the call to serve as pastor of both Seward and Moose Pass missions. They served faithfully until their retirement in June 1984.

Fred Parnell served Moose Pass Mission and Hope Preaching Point for a period of time.

US-2 (3) Missionaries

Since August 1993, Doug and Jennifer Rumsey, Home Mission Board US-2 missionaries have served the Moose Pass Mission. A mobile home was moved next to the mission building in 1993 to house the Rumseys. Doug and Jennifer have labored faithfully, improving the mission building and developing ministries in the community. Two services are held each Sunday, a Wednesday morning and evening Bible study meets each week and, a Girls In Action group meets on Sunday evening with five to seven girls. Because Doug and Jennifer did an outstanding mission work, they were

requested to extend for a third year. Doug and Jennifer left Moose Pass in May 1996 to continue their schooling.

Major building improvements have also been made on the mission building including new carpet installed in the worship area. Restrooms have been put in, a new sign put up and the outside of the building has been repainted.

The attendance at Moose Pass Mission has been up and down through the years. In the late 70s and early 80s the average attendance was between 25-30 people. In 1996, the Sunday attendance is between 12-18 and the GA group averages 5-7 each Sunday night.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Mark (Wendy) Milligan served as pastor from 2003 to 2013. The church prospered and grew until it became necessary either to upgrade the current facility or move to a new location. Because of the extensive renovations and upgrading necessary it was decided to move to a new location. In 2009 the church purchased a larger site with a bus barn just up the road from the current facility. That property was sold and became the Moose Drop Inn Trading Post aka



the Fudge Shop. The owners of the Fudge Shop joined the Church and became regular attenders.

In 2004 work began on remodeling the

bus barn and making it into a church facility with an auditorium, fellowship hall, library, food bank and three Sunday School rooms. The new building was a welcome addition and incorporated some of the elements from the old building and church history. Examples include a very large rock in front of the new building and a wooden cross at the front of the driveway. Much of the work was done by volunteer work crews from Minnesota and members who know where to look can point out a Minnesota quarter in the floor of the

Moose Pass Community Church; Moose Pass (cont.)

Auditorium as a reminder of the friendships developed during this process.

In 2013 Mark Milligan resigned as pastor, and in 2014 Eric (Marla) Hiatt was called to pastor the church and they are still serving the church today. Eric is bi-vocational and employed as a correctional officer at Alaska's only maximum-security prison in nearby Seward.

In 2015 a volunteer crew from Mississippi cleared the property of old building and overgrown alder thickets to beautify the grounds. In addition, they removed flooring from the church which needed to be replaced and added a railing and stairwell to the deck on the parsonage. In 2016 the same crew, led by Billy "Mudcat" Matkins and his wife, Kay, returned to replace the parsonage roof which had outlived its useful lifespan.

The church also finished the heating system in the church building, repainted the floors and hosted several Vacation Bible Schools

and a Good News Club with the Child Evangelism Fellowship of Alaska in the new building. They continue to operate a Food Bank which ministers to several families in the area. The original owners of the Fudge Shop sold the business to a new couple who also joined the church and attend regularly. The first owners still live in the area and were regular in attendance until the Coronavirus pandemic.

Because a majority of the membership are senior citizens the church has begun to use FaceBook Live and will frequently have more people viewing services online than in-person. Attendance before the pandemic fluctuated between not many and the low 20s.

Morning Star Baptist Church Healy, Alaska

Date Begun: 1979

Date Constituted: January 20, 1985; reconstituted May 4, 2006

Sponsoring Church: North Star Baptist Church, Anderson

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Home Bible Study in Usibelli

The seeds that were to become Morning Star Baptist Church were planted when US-2 worker Kathy Cornelio established a Bible study group in the home of Rick and Judy Hundrup in Usibelli in 1979. By 1980, most of the residents of Usibelli and nearby Suntrana had moved to Healy, where land was available for building private homes. The Bible study group continued in Healy under the direction of Jim Clark, pastor of North Star Baptist Church, Anderson, a community 45 miles north of Healy. Pastor Clark began preaching Sunday night services in the Tri-Valley Community Center at Healy in the summer of 1982. Members of the Anderson church frequently drove the 45 miles to Healy for evening worship services. In 1983, a Sunday School was begun, led by Bill Nelson from Anderson.

Morning Star Baptist Mission

The name, "Morning Star Baptist Mission," was proposed by Jim Clark and adopted by the members of the new mission. When Jim Clark left, Bill Duncan, Director of Missions for Tanana Association, preached the Sunday evening services in Healy. On May 13, 1984, Sunday morning Sunday School and worship services were instituted at Tri-Valley Community Center with Sheldon Sorenson as supply preacher. Rev. Don Shannon, Jr. was called as pastor effective July 8, 1984.

Morning Star Baptist Church

On January 20, 1985, Morning Star Baptist Church was constituted with twenty-two charter members. During the summer of 1985, ground was broken for the church building and a well was drilled. Construction began in May of 1986 with much help provided by various community members. Work teams from Texas and Alabama helped with construction and with Vacation Bible School in the summer.

The building, approximately 4,000 square feet, was completed and the first service was held in the new church building in October of 1986.

Home Mission Board, SBC Provides Church Pastoral Aid

For the first five years of Rev. Don Shannon's pastorate at Morning Star, the church received Church Pastoral Aid from the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention channeled through the Alaska Baptist Convention. The money was received on a phase-down schedule; by the end of the fifth year, Morning Star was able to shoulder all of its own financial responsibilities. Also during those years, a piano was purchased, classroom furniture was secured along with sound system and office furniture.

Church Building/Community Building

The Morning Star Church building has become a community meeting place for Thanksgiving services, Christmas and Easter community choir concerts and also local piano recitals.

Pastor's Tenth Anniversary Celebration

The people of Morning Star gave a surprise tenth anniversary celebration for Pastor Don, Carri, and family.

There has only been one pastor of Morning Star Church. This has afforded the church a sense of stability and continuity for the early years of church development. Pastor Shannon is bivocational, teaching music and art in the Denali Borough Schools at Healy, Cantwell, and Anderson. In 1995, Pastor Shannon was presented an award for being selected as "Outstanding Pastor of the Year for Small Churches West of the Mississippi River." The presentation was made at Glorieta Baptist Assembly in New Mexico. From its beginning as a Bible study group in 1979 to the present, Morning Star Baptist Church has been growing in numbers and in spiritual maturity.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Don (Carri) Shannon pastored Morning Star Baptist Church until 2003. He left to take the position of Director of Missions in Tongass Baptist Association. Peter (Connie) MacMaster was called as pastor in 2004 and is still serving in that position. Pastor MacMaster was the Alaska representative to the LifeWay board of trustees in the early 2000s.

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

Fairbanks, Alaska

Date Begun:

Date Constituted: March 23, 2005

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Under the leadership of Joe Blackburn, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church joined the Alaska Baptist Convention in 2009. Joe (Daisy) Blackburn is the pastor.

Mount Redoubt Baptist Church

Kenai, Alaska

Date Begun: May 1967

Date Constituted: April 10, 1972

Sponsoring Church: Faith Baptist Church, Anchorage

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Oil Boom in Cook Inlet

Mt. Redoubt Baptist Church was begun when four Baptist families became concerned for the new people moving to the North Kenai area as the result of oil drilling in Cook Inlet and the construction of the Collier Plant (now Unocal). One hundred families a month were moving into the area. It was J.C. and Lorene Baker, Prim and Lois Roady, Otto and Beth Schneider and Leo and Frances Johansson's concern that led representatives of the Home Mission Board and the Alaska Baptist Convention to survey the area and to decide that this was a priority area for a new Baptist mission.

Faith Baptist Mission, North Kenai

Faith Baptist Church, Anchorage, voted to sponsor the mission on North Road in Kenai. They purchased two house trailers, called a mission pastor and initiated the Kenai Faith Baptist Mission with 17 charter members in May 1967. Faith secured a permanent 2½ acre church site (property financed by Home Mission Board) and "a trailer chapel" and the pastor's mobile home were moved to the new site. Roy Moore (Barbara) was called as pastor. The mission had two Sunday Schools with over 100 in attendance

in less than two years. A new building was constructed with the help of State Mission Offering funds, and it was in use by October 6, 1968. The church building and the parsonage (begun in 1969) were built by work teams from Faith, Anchorage, and local work groups and church members. Both construction projects were financed by generous gifts of the people.

In 1969, the Wildwood Air Force Station closed, the drilling finished and the chemical plants were completed, so people began to leave the area. Attendance at the mission dropped and stayed very

low until the upswing in the economy in 1975 when the records show 25-30 were attending. Pastor Moore established two special ministries, the Children's Bible Study Class and the Ministry Preparation Class which provided an on-going positive witness in the area. Growth factors influencing the church growth were mainly due to the oil boom at first, then factory construction and now just people who have settled here.

Mount Redoubt Baptist Church

The Faith Baptist Mission was constituted as the Mount Redoubt Baptist Church in January 1971. The church continued under the leadership of Pastor Roy Moore for 25 years until he retired in 1992. Prior to his retirement, a Georgia group led by Gene Allison accepted the challenge of assisting in the start of a new building for ministry. For five years they faithfully returned to work on the building until it was completed. The Georgia work teams were joined by many other work-teams to complete the miracle new building. Dick Weaver, a local, also was a faithful worker during the construction. The new building was a dream and goal of Pastor Moore and the congregation.

Paul Hampton (Barbara) was called to pastor the church in late summer of 1992 when much work needed to be done on the new building. Just prior to Pastor Hampton's coming as pastor, Mark Barnett and Dick Weaver led the church to continue in ministry and construction. Paul was an experienced builder, and he assisted in many ways in completing the building.

Many people of the community have said that "Mount Redoubt is the most beautiful church building around." Guests often say, "Mount Redoubt looks like a place that welcomes people to worship." The building was dedicated to the Lord in special services on September 11, 1994. The on-going building fund will provide funds to complete some smaller projects such as a roof

over the handicap ramp at the front entrance.

Church Growth and Outreach

During construction, the move was made from having only Sunday morning worship to having Sunday School, Sunday morning and evening worship, music ministry, Wednesday afternoon Children's Bible Study and Recreation, Wednesday night prayer meeting, Thursday night Women's Bible Study and Saturday night Youth Bible Study and Recreation.

The Sunday morning attendance averages about 20; however, there are about 25-30 people in Bible studies each week in addition



Mount Redoubt Baptist Church; Kenai (cont.)

to the Sunday morning. Attendance is gradually increasing with visitors almost every week. There have been six professions of faith in 1995, two additions by letter and one by baptism with three awaiting baptism.

Mount Redoubt is a participant in Southern Baptist mission support through the Cooperative Program, State, Home and Foreign mission offerings and associational mission gifts. Mt. Redoubt may never grow large in number; however, the church can have a great ministry to the community and around the world. Our prayer is that Mt. Redoubt will continue to be a lighthouse in North Kenai pointing a lost world to the Saviour. Pastor Hampton resigned in the spring of 1996.

Short Term Volunteers

Two semester missionaries, Steve Huffman from Oklahoma and Sara Walters from Illinois served Mt. Redoubt in 1995. Another volunteer was Kevin Edwards who came from Texas to work with the church for two years in the area of music. A team of two couples from Kentucky and Tennessee led the Vacation Bible School in summer of 1995. Short-term volunteers have made major contributions to Mt. Redoubt for which the church is most grateful.

Pastors

Roy Moore (Barbara) 1967-1992; Paul Hampton (Barbara) 1992-1996.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Talakai Finau is the senior pastor at Mount Redoubt Baptist Church, Nikiski, Alaska.

The church is grateful to God for all His blessings bestowed on the Alaska Baptist Resource Network, and the many churches within the Alaska Baptist Convention. Mount Redoubt Baptist Church is grateful that they are not forgotten, but encouraged by the network of churches to minister to their community by preaching the Word of God, with the sole purpose of winning souls for Jesus Christ.

Within the past year and a half, they have baptized 33 people, and 33 more have made the decision for Christ, awaiting baptism. Including the pastor, the church has ordained six ministers into the ministry of the gospel, and seven deacons. They have grown from six members to over seventy members, not counting the 33 that are awaiting baptism.

Church members minister to the elderly at Charis Place, Kenai, every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. They serve at Friendship Mission every Monday under the leadership of Bob Thraves from College Heights Baptist Church. Mount Redoubt Baptist Church embraces the ministry of Pastor Dan Smouse at Lighthouse Baptist Church, and Todd Bringham at Compass. Dan's effort to unite the local churches in this community is wonderful, keeping people focused on God during fear and panic.

The harvest is great, so what are the needs?

- Training: especially in how Southern Baptists function, for those who come out of non-SBC churches.
- Volunteer groups to help upgrade the church facility, so it can meet ADA certification, and to landscape our property.
- Vision: A Bible College on-site. There should be a local college and seminary locally independent of federal funding. The Word of God must be taught.

A Personal Work of thanks from Pastor Finau

Rob Vin from the North American Board for calling to pray and check up on us.

Dr. Randy Covington, for teaching and praying for me and my wife at your office. I had no idea I would be serving here today.

The family of the Late Dr. Roy Moore, for their ministry at Mount Redoubt for more than a half of a century.

Pastor Don Shannon, for guiding me and my wife during the transition time.

Pastor Scott Coffmann, for mentoring me during my college life at Alaska Christian College, and advising me to focus on church growth first. We did it. We've reached over seventy members. It's time now to organize.

Professor Greg Crawford, for teaching me at school and the classes you put on your church page.

Bob Thraves, for teaching the power of winning souls one on one.

To Larry Harvey at College Heights Baptist Church, Debra Long at the ABRN office, Pastor Cliff Day at the last annual meeting, your messages and hospitality has been many blessings for me and all of us here at Mount Redoubt Baptist Church. May the God of heaven return the blessings upon you and let it run over.



congregation 2020

Mountain View Community Church

Anchorage, Alaska

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Date Begun: September 12, 1954

Date Constituted: May 5, 2010

Sponsoring Church: Grandview Baptist Church, Anchorage

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

(Also known as Mountain View Mission, Trinity Baptist church, Faith East Baptist Church, and Victory Baptist Church)

Mountain View Mission

Mountain View Baptist Mission was begun September 12, 1954, with Wyatt Flowers (Electra) the first pastor. Valeria Sherard, associational missionary, laid the groundwork for the mission by visiting many homes and telling the area about the new mission. In the spring of 1954, Grandview Church became the sponsoring church. The mission first met in a store building (Parsons and Bragaw) and then moved to a former post office building on Taylor Street. Four Sunday School classes met in one room 16x50 feet with only portable curtain screens as dividers.

First Baptist Church of Mountain View

First Baptist Church of Mountain View was organized July 17, 1955, with 33 charter members. Wyatt Flowers resigned as pastor and James E. Akin (Fern) from Vernal, Utah, was called as pastor beginning October 1956. The church name was changed to Trinity Baptist Church. In 1956, two lots with an old garage building were purchased on Mountain View Drive.

Trinity Baptist Church

John Jeffcoat (Raleigh) became pastor in May 1960 and led the church to purchase adjoining lots in 1962 and begin building a new sanctuary. Jeffcoat resigned July 1, 1963.

Donald E. Wright (Kathy) was called as pastor in September 1963. He led the church in completing the building and served the church until April 1967 when he was appointed missionary to Southeast Ministries (Petersburg).

Tommy Pitman was interim pastor until Dupree Gowan came in 1969 and served more than three years before returning to North Carolina. Thomas L. Kilpatrick (Dorothy) was called October 1, 1972, (ten additions the first Sunday) but had to resign in November 1973 due to ill health.

Ralph May (Asheville, N.C.), already on field, was called as pastor in February 1974 and served only until April 1974 when he returned to North Carolina. Ron Redding (military) became pastor and served until May 1975. Johnny Newton (Shirley), retired military, became pastor April 6, 1975. In May 1976, Brother Newton resigned to go to Florida Bible Institute. Herb Tyler was called as pastor in September 1977.

In 1979, after a long period of decline, Trinity Baptist Church decided to disband. The church property passed into the hands of the Chugach Baptist Association in late 1979. The indebtedness on the property was approximately \$75,000. The original building, which had been used as educational space, was renovated and utilized for the associational offices. A new Native Baptist Mission begun by Don Rollins shared the use of this part of the building.

Faith East Baptist Church

At this time Faith Baptist Church began planning for a new ministry called Faith East Mission, which utilized the sanctuary building of the Trinity property. After extensive remodeling of the building, Faith East Mission began in January 1980 after the church had been closed about three months. Chet Stewart did much of the building renovation and added an apartment to the facility. Ferrell Mills, Felton Griffin, Horace Bums, John Copeland and Danny Griffin preached in the mission until February 1984, when Charles Woody was called as pastor of Faith East. Lynn Spencer served as music director for about a year. Faith East Baptist Church was constituted on January 6, 1985, with 99 charter members. Chuck Woody resigned in January 1987 to go to New York.

Andrew Euler became pastor in 1987 and left in 1988. During Euler's ministry, Matt Frieese was licensed to preach. Frieese went on to college and seminary and is now pastoring Hillside Baptist Church, Anchorage. David Garrett became pastor in August 1989 and stayed one year.

Charles Woody returned as pastor in February 1991. In April 1992, the church changed its name to Victory Baptist Church. On June 5, 1994, Phil Lielasus was licensed to preach and on October 16, 1994, he was ordained to the gospel ministry. Lielasus is now pastor of Sutton Baptist Fellowship. Chuck Woody got married and resigned in January 1995 and moved to Lincoln, North Dakota. George Ragsdale became interim pastor for a short time.

Wallace B. Parham, Sr. (Cleo) of Benson, Arizona, came back to Alaska to work at Laverne Griffin Youth and Recreation Camp June 13, 1995. While there, he supplied several times at Victory. He has been interim pastor since September 1, 1995.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Pastors who have served

2000-2011 Charles (LaVon) Bridges

2012-2012 Butch (Pam) Strickland, interim

2013-2018 Ron Davis

2018-2020 Charles (LaVon) Bridges, interim

2020-present Rich Spight, interim

Muldoon Road Baptist Church

Anchorage, Alaska

Date Begun: July 1960

Date Constituted: November 1960; reconstituted January 5, 1984

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Eagle River

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Beginning

Muldoon Road Baptist Church was constituted in November 1960, with 54 charter members along with Pastor Virgil Chron and his wife, June. The Sunday School enrollment quickly grew to over 1,000, and by February 1971, a third building was added which is now the sanctuary. Due to a heart attack and health problems, Pastor Chron retired in January 1983. The membership, as well as the church vision, began to decline.

Muldoon/Denali Baptist

Denali Baptist Church (a mission of First, Anchorage) constituted as a church on January 1, 1984, with 51 charter members. Roy D. Collins, Jr. (Glenda) was pastor of the new church which was meeting in Scenic Park Elementary School. In February 1984, Pastor Ed Greig of Muldoon Road Baptist Church and its 25 active members invited Denali Baptist Church with its 100 members to merge congregations. On March 4, 1984, the churches merged to become Muldoon Denali Baptist Church and called Dr. Collins as pastor. In August 1993, Muldoon Denali Baptist Church voted to change their name back to Muldoon Road Baptist Church.

Church Growth and Outreach

Muldoon/Denali Baptist Church grew rapidly baptizing 179 and adding 289 by letter or statement. The church sponsored a mission to singles and called Don E. Lane (Diana) to that ministry. Other ministries begun were the Safe House Ministry to former prostitutes, a prison ministry, and the continued support to two Alaska missions, King Salmon Mission and Chitina. On July 13, 1992, Muldoon Road Baptist Church commissioned Fred Vandivort (along with his wife, Kay) to preach at the King Salmon Mission now called King Salmon Community Chapel.

Pastor Collins resigned in April 1985, and Don Lane was called as pastor. During his pastorate the church baptized 274 and 217 joined by letter or statement. The staff increased as Jerry Shough became Youth Director in June 1985. In July 1986, Ted Yarbrough (Glenda) became Minister of Education and Administration. In August 1986, David Garrett (Karen) became Minister of Singles. Pastor Don Lane resigned in October 1987.

Due to turmoil and financial problems, the staff was reduced but Ted Yarbrough remained as Interim Pastor.

Two new missions

were formed, one to the North Slope oilfield and a new local mission at Lake Otis area known as Greatland Mission. (Greatland merged with Inlet View and formed what is now known as Rabbit Creek Community Church.)

In July 1988, the church called Dr. Keith Miles (Roxanne) as pastor and in March 1989, Dale Mitchell (Robin) was called as Music/Youth/Education Director. Due to family problems, Dale Mitchell resigned in May 1991. In August 1992, the church called Kim Clifton (Becky) from Sunset Hills Baptist Church to be Minister of Music/Youth. Dr. Keith Miles' last Sunday at Muldoon Road Baptist Church was August 6, 1995, and August 15, 1995, was Kim Clifton's last day as Minister of Music/Youth. Pastor Miles accepted a pastorate in West Virginia and Clifton accepted a position in Arizona.

The church was blessed by having two of its members volunteer to serve in the interim. Steve Miller served as interim pastor and Dave Riffe volunteered as the music leader.

The "Big Red Church"

The "Big Red Church" at the corner of 4th and Muldoon, has undergone many changes over the years; yet the Lord is still victorious and new steady growth is occurring once more. Over the past ten years Muldoon Road Baptist Church has seen 629 baptized and 20 individuals have surrendered their lives to serve in the ministry.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

On January 14, 1996, the church called Dr. James Hamilton to the pastorate and on March 3, 1996, he preached his first sermon as pastor. Brother Jim and wife, Lisa, and two children, Zach and Abigail, came from the Northeast Park Baptist Church, Evansville, Indiana. The Hamiltons are not strangers to Alaska. They are former members of Sunset Hills Baptist Church where he was ordained to the ministry in 1986. They served full time as houseparents at Alaska Baptist Family Services for four years prior to going to seminary.

Rev. Keith Longo (Jo Ann) was called as Associate Pastor of Music and Students. They arrived in Anchorage on April 9, 1996, from Lake City, Florida, where he served at Southside Baptist Church.

Some time prior to 1995, Muldoon/Denali Baptist Church was renamed Muldoon Road Baptist Church. The church sponsored a mission trip to Russia in the mid 90s. The church has hosted, and continues to host, a number of mission teams from various places over the years that minister to both the church and community. On any given Sunday, there are a diverse set of services hosted by a total of four churches which meet in the facility using no less than three distinct languages.

Pastors who have served

- Keith Miles 1993
- James Hamilton 1996
- James Thrash 2001
- Ray Nelson (interim 6 months) 2006
- Jimmy Woods 2007
- Fred Stroud 2010
- Brad Whitworth 2017



New Birth Christian Church

Fairbanks, Alaska

Date Begun: September 6, 2009
 Date Constituted: March 14, 2013
 Sponsoring Church:

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

New Birth Christian Church (NBCC) was established by God through Pastor Eric L. Jones and his wife, Evangelist Dr. Angela E. Jones, on Sunday, September 6, 2009. In obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit, Pastor Jones and his wife had the first service in their home, located at 1810 Chena Point Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Over the past 11 years NBCC has held services in several locations due to the increase and decrease of membership. They have been teaching and preaching the Good News throughout the Fairbanks community and surrounding areas. Services have been held at the Alaska Army National Guard Armory, J.P. Jones Community Center, 1031 Lathrop Street, and 700 Old Steese Highway. Services are currently being held at 1810 Chena Point Avenue.

New Birth has held community block parties as an evangelistic thrust by conducting prayer walks in local neighborhoods where they knocked on doors and gave out gospel tracks, Bibles, prayed with individuals and their families, and invited them to accept Jesus Christ as

their Lord and Savior. NBCC has provided school supplies such as backpacks and other items for the beginning of the school year, as they witnessed to the parents of the love of Jesus Christ our Savior. NBCC has annual retreats at Birch Lake where Pastor Jones has been blessed to perform many baptisms which has been a witness to those standing by witnessing the Holy Spirit filled services.

NBCC would also like to acknowledge how God has used other churches and organizations to partner with them in the mission of reaching the lost. Other churches have walked this journey together by prayers, utilizing their facility for baptisms, weddings, etc.

NBCC is thankful to Tanana Valley Baptist Association for the use of bouncy houses and other fun activities for the Community Outreach Block Parties which brought lots of joy the children as well as to their parents.

The Alaska Baptist Convention has provided trainings to equip leaders, and finances for building projects. NBCC is greatly appreciative of all the provisions God has given through others that has made mission of New Birth Christian Church a place where people can come to find hope, peace, and the love of Christ.

This is a brief history of how God is using New Birth Christian Church to witness to the lost, the backslider, spiritually homeless, and those looking for hope; they must be led to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Let us praise God for His leading and guidance.



New Grace Christian Church

Anchorage, Alaska

Date Begun: November 1998
 Date Constituted: August 27, 1998

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

New Grace Christian Church began meeting in November of 1998, and purchased their current building in fall of 1999. New Grace associated with the Alaska Baptist Convention in 2008 under the direction of the founding, and current, pastor, Brian (Happy) Chronister.



New Hope Baptist Church

Anchorage, Alaska

Date Begun: April 1960

Date Constituted: August 18, 1960; reconstituted November 16, 2010

Sponsoring Church: Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Anchorage

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Mrs. Bessie Higgins Borrowed

Led by Reverend Earnest Smith and Chaplain J.A. Harkness of Elmendorf AFB, the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church had its humble beginning in the Carpenters Hall on Easter Sunday in April, 1960. Sister Bessie Higgins was one of the officers borrowed from Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church to serve as Sunday School Superintendent. Mom Higgins, directed the Sunday School for 17 years; 36 years later, she is still on loan and is recognized as the church's matriarch. In 1973, Mom Higgins led the church to hold the first Silver Tea which has become an annual tradition. Bessie Higgins led the New Hope women to organize the Woman's Missionary Union for service and community ministry. The New Hope ladies have continued this emphasis throughout the history of the church. Mrs. Bessie Higgins and Mrs. Vallie Mae Hawkins, two of the original members, continue worshipping with the New Hope family.

New Hope Constituted

On May 8, 1960, 21 faithful Christians joined the church, and the New Hope Baptist Church was constituted. In 1963, New Hope moved into the basement of the present church building and that same year, Pastor Earnest Smith went to be with the Lord. In 1966, Reverend William B. Lyons came as pastor and served until his death, January 23, 1984. Reverend Lyons was elected President of the Alaska Baptist Convention in 1978. Brother Lyons was the first black minister to be elected to this office in Alaska. In September 1984, the Municipality of Anchorage established the William B. Lyons Park, on the grounds adjacent to the church, in his memory.

Church Growth and Outreach

Reverend Leo Josey helped to organize the first Vacation Bible School in 1964, and Sister Roberta Smith served as director. By 1967, an annual Vacation Bible School was established with enrollment continually increasing. In 1992 and 1993, New Hope held VBS at Grandview Baptist Church in order to have space enough for all the children who wanted to come.

In 1968, the sanctuary was finished and the congregation moved from the basement to the upstairs sanctuary. On July 1, 1976, ground-breaking service was held to enlarge the sanctuary and educational space. This addition was completed and dedicated on January 23, 1977. The church continued to grow, and by 1977, church membership had reached 500. The first church bus was purchased in 1979. Immediately, Sunday School enrollment and attendance increased rapidly. The bus was also used to transport students involved in the Alaska Black Leadership Tutorial program. The first annual Graduate Appreciation Banquet was held in June 1979. By 1980, the Church began an early morning service at 7:45 a.m. and an early morning Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. Many members of New Hope received the Christian Development Certificates upon completion of various church study course training. The church grew numerically, spiritually and financially. New Hope baptized many believers into the faith and accepted many others by statement. An active bus ministry along with double worship and Sunday School services aided in exposing many to the Word of God.

On January 20, 1985, Pastor, Carl Johnson accepted the pastorate of New Hope, and began his ministry on March 3, 1985. During his

ministry at New Hope, Pastor Johnson began a church newsletter, a tape ministry, a marriage counseling ministry, initiated an annual sweetheart banquet and formed a scholarship committee who awarded two William B. Lyons Scholarships annually. In April 1988, the mortgage note on the church was burned and soon the church began giving 18 percent of its tithes and offerings to mission related activities. In 1988, New Hope began a building fund drive. Pastor Carl Johnson resigned in July 1991 and Reverend James A. Ivy, Sr. was installed on Sunday, January 24, 1993, and served as pastor until August 1994. In January 1995, Reverend Donald Barlow, youth pastor, became the Interim Pastor and continues to serve in this capacity. While the church continues to focus on winning souls, the need to address the social issues within the community remains a major concern. Programs are in place which allow members to be involved in missions. Some of the ongoing missions ministries include: feeding the hungry, providing a clothes closet, giving assistance to homeless, supporting a Haitian orphanage, visiting senior/elderly homes and providing bus transportation for family members to visit prisoners. Reverend Luella Vann serves at the Robert Rude Senior Center and Reverend Don Barlow ministers at McLaughlin Youth Center.

Missions Begun

Pastor Carl Johnson and Reverend Johnny Saffore shared a vision of establishing a mission outreach in Eagle River. On Sunday, December 7, 1986, the Eagle River mission was officially begun with Reverend Saffore appointed as pastor. On August 9, 1987, the New Hope Mission of Eagle River became the Solid Rock Baptist Church. In 1990, the Greater Faith Mission Church was established.

Deacons Ordained for Service

New Hope has ordained 24 men as deacons since 1971. In 1989, Carol Smith became the first woman to be ordained as deacon. Peggy Davenport became a deacon in training in 1992.

Ministers Licensed to Ministry

Men who were licensed and/or ordained to the gospel ministry by New Hope are: Charles Barlow, Donald Barlow, John Smith, William Reedy, Paul Brewer, Michael Brooks, Reginald Carr, Lance Davis, Dennis Hubbard, Joshua Powell, Mitchell Shannon, Ronald Stevenson, Delbert Watts, Robert Greene, Jacob Lawrence, Carl Lyons, Elliot Nichols, Perry Walker and Ed Rhodes.

In 1987, Edna Darlene Williams became the first female to be licensed to preach by New Hope. Since that time Doretha Abrams, Deborah Clayton, Sharon Cross, Alice Lawrence, Carolyn Tubbs, Luella P. Vann, Robin Williams, Mattie Williams, Helen Swindell and June Comish have joined her.

Pastors Who Have Served

New Hope has had six men to serve as pastor or interim pastor in its 36-year history. They are: Earnest Smith, 1960-63; Boyd Rogers, 1963-66; William B. Lyons, 1966-84; John Smith, Interim, 1984-85; Carl Johnson, 1985-1991; Perry Walker, interim, 1991-92; James A. Ivy, Sr., 1992-94; Donald Barlow, interim, 1995-Present.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Pastors who have served 1996-2021

Clifton (Gail) Gay, December 1996 to 2012; John Smith, 2013-2016, interim; Lance Davis, 2017, interim; Wilbert (Shelia) Mickens, 2018-present.

Over the years New Hope Baptist Church has been active in the Christian community by providing organizational training conferences for local churches, and the establishment of prayer hours. They have been active in the unchurched community in many areas including benevolence ministries, parenting classes, mobile food bank, Thursday wellness ministry for seniors, donating to the Blood Bank, and volunteering with Providence Extended Care to provide one Sunday worship each month.

Since the season of COVID-19, New Hope Baptist Church has expanded its ministry to keep members and friends connected. Sunday School and worship services are teleconferenced.

Weekday check-in on Tuesdays and Thursdays keep the congregation informed about the latest community and church news.

Wednesday night bible study continues by teleconference.

In the summer, New Hope is partnering with kids Kupboard to feed children under 18 a healthy lunch in the Mountain View community.

The community and Christ-like spirit of New Hope Baptist Church not only continues but thrives in these times of opportunity to serve the Lord.

New Hope Fellowship Haines, Alaska

Date Begun: 1999

Date Constituted: June 7, 2010

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Sage, and Holly Thomas with their five children, came to Haines in the fall of 1999 from Oregon with the intention of planting a church. They settled 31.5 miles north of town in a small community unofficially named Mosquito Lake, population about 180.

Sage was called to the ministry in his late 20s with no formal education, as he worked with his pastor Sam Morgan. Mr. Morgan lead

Sage to the local DOM who called the DOM in Juneau, Jim Parker. These two men were influential in the early years of the ministry of Sage Thomas.

The church met in the Thomas home the first 13 years, then the congregation was able to buy and build a small church with no debt. It has been a joy seeing God slowly grow the church, spiritually and in other ways. The church currently averages 15 to 35 people in attendance, there are five deacons as well as a choir, childrens' programs and normal church functions.

God has been merciful to His little church in Haines and is working through it to minister to this community. We bow before Him and thank Him.

North Bear Street Baptist Church Wasilla, Alaska

Date Begun:

Date Constituted: January 28, 2002

Sponsoring Church:

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

The current pastor is Jamie (Christie) Lyons.

North Tongass Baptist Church

Ward Cove, Alaska

Date Begun: June 1985

Date Constituted: August 9, 1988

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Ketchikan

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Beginning

The North Tongass Baptist Mission was started in June 1985 as a mission of First Baptist Church, Ketchikan, to serve the North Tongass Highway area of Revillagegido Island where Ketchikan is located.

This 20 mile highway area is home for several thousand people with only one other church in the entire area at that time. Rev. Dan Hill and his wife, Barbara, retired school teachers after some 25 years in Alaska, was called to be mission pastor. The North Tongass Baptist Mission met in rented space in a Community Club facility for two years. When the mission began searching for property, they discovered that Pastor Dan Hill owned the ideal property for the new mission. It was then they learned that when Dan and Barbara had bought their home they purchased extra land with the prayer that someday there would be a Baptist church built on it. Two acres were purchased at this time for the mission

First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Alabama Builds Mission

Building

In 1987, as part of the Alaska-Alabama Partnership Agreement, a work team from First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Alabama, came and erected the first unit building for North Tongass Baptist Mission. This building has been in use since 1987. During Christmas holidays in 1987, Pastor Hill led the mission in holding a three-day Vacation Bible School from 9:00 a.m. to noon and Parent's Night was the Christmas Program.

North Tongass Baptist Church

On June 5, 1988, the third anniversary of the mission, North Tongass Baptist Church was constituted. In the beginning the Church began supporting missions through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program and other mission offerings. The church offers Bible study and worship on a regular basis. Pastor Dan Hill served the church until he moved from Alaska in 1991. At that time the Hills sold their remaining property to the church. A second bi-vocational pastor, Richard (Carol) Burns was called in June 1992 and currently serves the church, while working at three other jobs. About 25-30 people attend the Sunday School and worship services. A supper is enjoyed each Wednesday night prior to the Bible study and prayer service.

Klawock Preaching Point

In early 1996, North Tongass Baptist Church voted to sponsor the Klawock Preaching Point, and Keith Webb is leading a Tuesday night Bible study at the Community Recreation Hall with 10-12 in attendance. Klawock is a community of about 1,100 located on Prince of Wales Island.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

North Tongass called Pastor Richard Burns as their pastor in 1992. He served until 1998 when Pastor Scott Hart was called. Following him was Pastor Mike Hatter and then Pastor Bill Blankenship was called. Following was Kevin Crowell.

Some of the outreach programs that North Tongass has provided to the community have been helping with Orton Ranch, and for several years, providing a Food Bank. North Tongass Baptist has also sponsored families for Christmas and conducted an annual Bible School during Christmas vacation in the 1990s.

Northern Lights Missions

Tok, Alaska

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Date Begun: 2014

Date Constituted: March 25, 2015

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Northern Lights Missions is a full-time faith based ministry. The work was begun by Jeff and Shelly Sulfridge with their first visit in August of 2013 after God placed a calling in their hearts for the Interior of Alaska, and more specifically Native Alaskan villages and rural communities. They are located in Tok, Alaska, and their life verse is Acts 20:24 "The ministry which I have received of the Lord."

God has opened many doors and they have graciously, humbly, and prayerfully walked through them. Northern Lights Missions is in full partnership with the Alaska Baptist Convention, North American Mission Board and several partnering churches both in Alaska and outside our great state.

Northern Lights Missions predominantly ministers to Native Athabascan groups and villages in areas surrounding Tok known as the Upper Tanana and Yukon River Valleys. While a vast number of people in the villages of the Interior have heard about a prayer that can get them to heaven, not all are blessed with opportunities to be in an area where there is an active and ongoing church of which they can be part or where they can receive teaching and discipling to help them grow in their faith walk with Jesus Christ as their Savior.

During the summer, many villages located on the road systems get overwhelmed by mission organizations and churches that want to lead Vacation Bible School and a one or two day Bible study, while

the more remote villages often receive little to no outside support. In addition, when the brutally cold, long, and dark months of winter set in, there are not many ministries willing to continue the work that is done in the summer. Several villages in this region have no Bible study or regular teacher for most of nine months of the year.

Northern Lights Missions believes discipling Alaskans is urgent. They also believe winter is the perfect time to minister in the villages, which is why the Sulfridges have chosen to live with the people and experience life just as they do.

As missionaries, the ultimate goal is to share God's love and to plant churches by discipling in native Alaskan villages and communities. Churches will grow and God will bless as long as He is allowed to lead and we trust in Him for the pastors who are so desperately needed. The Sulfridges pray that they can find a Peace Partner, as Jesus described in Luke 10, in each village who they can help to train up biblically, and then continue to support him or her in the ministry. Another vital element is that the Peace Partner will be in the villages through the summer and, more importantly, during the winter when the overwhelming majority of people stop visiting. Please pray with the Sulfridges that God will place that someone in each village to be His minister and a light to others that choose to live in Northern Alaska.

Northern Lights Missions has planted and is maintaining three churches and is working in seven additional native villages and the Tok Community. The three churches are Eagle Village Church, in Eagle, Alaska; Tetlin Village Church, in Tetlin, Alaska; and Tanacross Village Church, in Tanacross, Alaska

Pathway Discipleship Church

Nome, Alaska

Date Begun: 2017

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Aaron Brown is the Church Planter.

Pioneer Baptist Church of Wasilla

Wasilla, Alaska

Date Begun:

Date Constituted: March 5, 2003

Sponsoring Church:

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Pioneer Baptist Church is located at 2692 N. Theodore Drive, Wasilla, AK 99687.

Rev. Mark Fontecchio is the pastor. Pastor Mark Fontecchio and his family feel blessed to call Alaska and Pioneer Baptist Church their home. Mark is an avid student of the Word of God, first entering the ministry full-time in 1997.

Pioneer Baptist Church is happy to provide nursery care for infants and toddlers in all regular services. The nursery is a ministry

to young families so moms and dads can sit under the teaching of God's Word more often. Child safety is a strong priority.

Sunday School

Pioneer Baptist is developing Sunday School for all ages. The adults currently meet in the auditorium at 10 a.m. and the youngest children meet upstairs in the children's wing. Due to the rapidly growing number of children and teenagers in the congregation, the church anticipates offering more classes for these age groups soon.

Wednesday Nights

Wednesday nights begin with fellowship and snacks for all ages in the fellowship hall at 6 p.m. Worship begins in the auditorium followed by separate age groups for Bible study and prayer.

Rabbit Creek Church

Anchorage, Alaska

Inlet View Baptist Mission Begun: June 21, 1981

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Birchwood

Greatland Baptist Mission Begun: August 28, 1985

Sponsoring Church: Muldoon Denali, Anchorage

Merged: January 5, 1986

Date Constituted as Rabbit Creek Community Church: May 6, 1988

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Beginning: Inlet View Baptist Church

The Chugach Baptist Association purchased land at the corner of Snowshoe Lane and Rabbit Creek Road for a new mission in south Anchorage. On June 2, 1981, First Baptist Church, Birchwood, voted to sponsor this new mission and called Clifford McConnell (Millie) as pastor. The initial worship service was an open air service held on June 21, 1981, with about 90 attending. The Inlet View Mission met in the Alaska Baptist Convention Office building for the next two years while the first unit building was being planned and erected. In June 1983, the Inlet View Mission met in the new building for the first service. Brother McConnell retired at the end of 1985.

Beginning: Greatland Church

Rabbit Creek Community Church began with a triangular partnership as a mission of Muldoon Denali Baptist Church, Chugach Baptist Association and the Alaska Baptist Convention/Home Mission Board in August of 1985. The work was called Greatland Church.

Pastor Terry Hill along with his wife, Debbie, and three children, Jenifer, Johanna, and Terry Jr. traveled from Texas to begin the new work. The church began with an outreach visitation for a Bible study in the Hills rented home. Some weeks later they rented the YMCA for use on Sunday mornings and evenings.

Merger with Inlet View Mission

After a telephone call from Rev. Clifford McConnell, pastor of Inlet View Baptist Mission, and a few calls from Rev. Robert Chadwick, pastor of Inlet View's sponsoring church, First Baptist Church of Birchwood, the Greatland congregation began discussion of a merger of the two missions. After many meetings and joint services throughout the month of December 1985, the two congregations merged on January 5, 1986, as Pastor McConnell retired. There was a unanimous vote from both congregations in favor of the merger and in favor of the name of the mission remaining Inlet View Baptist Mission.

Over the next few weeks, most of the original Inlet View congregation moved out of state, back to a former church, or otherwise left the mission for various reasons; not the least of which was the contemporary approach being taken toward worship style to attract the demographic group in the Rabbit Creek community. The horizon for the 27 members from Greatland Church and the two remaining of the original Inlet View group looked financially challenging to say the least, with a \$1,750 monthly building payment, pastor's salary and the rest of day-to-day operations expenses.

God blessed and honored His Word. The congregation has grown numerically and spiritually each year in spite of the normal attrition

via transiency. The mission constituted in June of 1987 at the same time the congregation dedicated a new office/education addition, which was built on a cash basis. Volunteers from Alabama provided most of the labor.

In early 1990 the congregation took an exceptionally hard hit via transfers of several members out of state as a result of difficulties in the Alaska industry. The church lost its only deacon, its treasurer and all but two Sunday School teachers. Pastor Terry Hill and his family took off the month of June in 1990 to attend the SBC in New Orleans and for vacation. They anticipated returning to Anchorage and that Terry would seek employment outside the church while God rebuilt the congregation. Upon return, God began to bless immediately as He added families to the church. Later that year the church began to make purposeful plans to accelerate their outreach into the community. Work was done and studies compiled. After months of prayer and discussion, the congregation voted to change the name of the church from Inlet View Baptist Church to Rabbit Creek Community Church. The doctrine of the church remained the same, but a barrier was removed between the church and the community. The church adopted a motto: "do less, better."

Rabbit Creek Community Church

Within one year it became obvious that plans needed to be initiated to build a larger auditorium and more fellowship and education space. Demographics of the area were studied once again. Rabbit Creek began a capital stewardship campaign to finance the building. It was a three-year campaign called "Sharing to Build; Building to Share." The Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board leaders were consulted for guidance



and suggestion about design, size and usability of the new building. Most of 1992 was spent in planning and design.

The church broke ground in April of 1993 on the almost 13,000 square-foot structure. Seventy percent of the construction was accomplished with over 500 volunteers from the lower 48 over a 30 month period. The church raised \$425,000 and borrowed \$425,000 from the Home Mission Board. The church received a certificate of occupancy for the building in September of 1995.

Rabbit Creek continues to enjoy the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ as it "Reaches up to the Master, Reaches out to the masses, Reaches in to the members." Pastor Terry Hill and his wife Debbie, who serves as church secretary, recently celebrated their 10-year anniversary with the church since starting with a Bible study in their home. Even more recently, the church celebrated the 10-year anniversary of Rochelle Hughes, church pianist, who started with the church while meeting in the YMCA.

Present plans include church growth, paying off the indebtedness at an accelerated rate and the possibility of a gymnasium and Christian school.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

In September of 1995 the church opened a new worship center and education space. The church continued to reach out to the hillside neighborhood. In 1997 Pastor Hill led the church through Vision 2000 by which the church enhanced its missions and outreach significantly. This led to growth. The Hills continued to serve at Rabbit Creek until the summer of 2008. They followed God's call to serve as missionaries in Mexico. On April 20th, 2008, the church members voted to call Dr. Mark T. Goodman who served previously in Alaska as pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, as senior pastor. He began serving on June 1, 2008. His wife, Vonda Kay, and their three children joined him in Alaska in July. Pastor Mark began by focusing on the importance of reaching people for Christ and teaching them to live for Him.

2008 – Today

As Pastor Mark Goodman's ministry continued the church focused on enhancing their ministry to families. In the summer of 2010 Cory and Lori Pepiton moved to Alaska to serve at Rabbit Creek as the Student Pastor and Children's Pastor. They arrived with a passion to introduce children and teenagers to Jesus and equip them to discover their "God jobs."

As families in Anchorage grew in faith through Rabbit Creek Church ministries, the need for building expansion arose. In October of 2012 the church body voted to purchase property and a building at 12100 Old Seward Hwy. Dane Havard, then Executive Pastor, provided orchestration to the project. The building was remodeled and transitioned from a tri-plex to a youth ministry building and a

outreach ministry center that included 12100 Coffee and Communitas, which opened in April 2014. The former youth space at the original church building (Hillside Campus) was renovated to make room for the expanding ministry to children.

During the 2015 year, Rabbit Creek Community Church changed names by shortening it to Rabbit Creek Church. Following the name and logo change, Pastor Mark led the congregation in the adoption of a new mission statement in 2016 based on Romans 12:1 (The Message) "Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering."

From this verse the Church formed its mission statement. *Equipping people to live their everyday lives for Christ.* This focus encourages people to serve Jesus during everyday, ordinary life.

Henry Couser joined the pastoral staff near the end of 2015 to serve as Executive Pastor. In January of 2017 the church launched a second campus (Huffman Campus), which meets for worship each Sunday. That same year, Josh Travis, who previously served at Muldoon Road Baptist Church, moved to Rabbit Creek to serve as the Worship and Outreach Pastor.

Rabbit Creek Church emphasizes the importance of welcoming worship services, small group ministry, and missions. Through the combination of these ministries Rabbit Creek Church connects with people's lives pointing them to Christ in communities including Anchorage, Northway, Texas, Florida, Mexico, Liberia, and Cambodia. Between the years 2008 to May 2020, Rabbit Creek Church baptized over 200 people. The church continues to seek God's leading and commits to working for His name's sake. To God be the glory!

Rescate Church Juneau, Alaska

Date Begun: October 1, 2018

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Rescate Church started on October 1, 2018, with Pastor Mario and Migda Morales. They came to USA from Guatemala as Hispanic Missionaries. They started a Hispanic Ministry in Hutchinson, KS and they were able to help establish two ministries. When those ministries were established they were moved to Wichita Falls, TX where they were able to help established three ministries and helped other

churches that did not have a pastor. In 2018 they moved to Juneau, Alaska, where they started a Hispanic Ministry in Glacier Valley Baptist Church. They started out with their two children, son-in-law and two grandchildren. They have been able to reach out to the Hispanic community. 2020 was a difficult year with in-person services canceled for months. But Rescate Church is now back in action with an average total of 18. The church has baptized their first person and is praying for more growth in this year. Through the difficult times God has been working and Rescate Church is seeing His Blessings.

*Delivering Thanksgiving meals to the homeless and needy families.
November 2020*



*First baptism at
Rescate Church*

River In The Desert Community Church

Anchorage, Alaska

Date Begun: August 29, 2009

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

River in the Desert Community Church, taken from Isaiah 43:19, was birthed out of Greater Friendship Baptist Church, Anchorage, Alaska. The church's name was dedicated to the Lord on June 28, 2009, and, the church was, effectively, founded August 29, 2009. The church was organized by a group of 36 believers, including 13 baptized youth, with Rev. Leon D. May I, as Founding Pastor. The first worship service was held at New Hope Baptist Church, of

Anchorage, Alaska, under the leadership of Pastor Clifton J. Gay III, Sunday, August 30, 2009, at 8:00 a.m.

In January 2011, during the Semi-Annual Church Conference, following the leading of the Lord, River in the Desert Community Church voted to begin a search for a new place to call home, that would better meet the time-needs of attendees, while expressing the unending gratitude to New Hope Baptist Church, and Pastor Clifton J. Gay III. On Sunday, May 29, 2011, the first service was held in their new home—the campus of Wayland Baptist University. A myriad of things have taken place in the church's ministry up to this point. The River is a church with a strong commitment to impact the community of Anchorage, and the state of Alaska, for the Living Lord, Jesus Christ.

Riverside Chapel

King Salmon, Alaska

Date Begun: 1968

Sponsoring Church: Muldoon Road Baptist Church

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Strong Military Influence

King Salmon Chapel began as a Sunday School in the mid 1960s. Bob and Shirley Johnson carried the work on for its first two years. When they left, the Sunday School was directed by two USAF Sergeants. Hershel and Joy Rinker led it in 1967-68. The group contacted Muldoon Road Baptist Church in 1968, and Muldoon began sponsoring the mission in King Salmon.

The first pastor, Donald J. Rollins (Marianne) and family, arrived in June of 1969. Regular services were held in the Katmai Club until the Chapel building was ready in October of 1969. The building in King Salmon was constructed with a \$30,000 loan from the Home Mission Board and was paid off by the congregation in nine years. The congregation put an additional \$45,000 into the completion of the building.

Challenges

Before the King Salmon Mission was started, there was a petition circulated by the local bar to stop any church from coming to this community. Needless to say, it was not successful. Due to moving families and rotating servicemen, the membership and leadership turnover is very rapid - perhaps more so than any location in the State.

Since 1992 much badly needed maintenance and work has been accomplished on the parsonage mobile home. The roof was leaking very badly and it had septic tank problems. A canopy has been built over the trailer, new windows installed, new siding and insulation have been added to the outside. A new septic tank has been installed on the grounds. Inside, the trailer has been painted and redecorated with new carpet, linoleum, shower insert, plumbing fixtures and counter tops; new doors and a new furnace are presently being installed.

Pastoral Leadership

Don Rollins served the mission for 11 years leaving King Salmon in August 1980. Don Swafford, James Sheldon and Bud Armstrong pastored the mission over the next few years. Starting in 1989, Ed Grieg pastored the church part-time. From then until July 1992 the mission was kept going by various people from the Air Force Base. Captain Sergeant and Sergeant Jerome McGee helped by their dedicated efforts:

Fred Vandivort has been pastoring King Salmon Mission since July 1992 and ministering at Ekwok Preaching Point since 1993. Fred and his wife, Kay, are Mission Service Corps Volunteers who moved from Topeka, Kansas.

Blessings and Growth

God blessed this congregation especially in the calling out of young men to the ministry. During the first 11 years there were 16 men who trained and entered the ministry - 2 of which are foreign missionaries. Eight people have been baptized since 1992. Six people have made decisions to accept Christ as Savior in 1995. Two of these have been baptized. The average attendance on Sunday mornings will vary between 20-35.

Mission Outreach

The King Salmon Mission reaches out in mission work to a number of villages. A mission building was built in Ekwok in summer of 1979 and Fred Vandivort ministers at Ekwok also.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Pastors Who Have Served

Carl Rice, 2001

Brad Keller, 2003-2004

Russ Olson, October 2010-September 2014

Bill Littleton, interim, September 2014-October 2015

The church is currently pastorless.

Roots Family Church

Soldotna, Alaska

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Date Begun: 2015

Date Constituted: February 16, 2015

Sponsoring Church:

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

The vision that drove the creation of Roots Family Church was launching a church that would birth scores of daughter congregations that would in-turn produce generations of new disciple-makers for the harvest.

Roots Family Church launched in the spring of 2015 in the front room of the home of Jim and Stephanie Boyd (NAMB church planting missionaries). By the spring of 2018 Roots had discovered, developed, and deployed two additional pastors and the church multiplied into three congregations meeting in three different communities on the Kenai Peninsula. One of those congregations disband in December of 2018.

Roots Family Church is a network of house churches, led by two church planting families: Jim and Stephanie Boyd, and Frank and

Suzanne Alioto. Together, their children lead a vibrant student-led youth ministry in Soldotna. Launched in January of 2019, the youth ministry quickly exploded with growth. By December they were ministering to over 150 students and hosting a Tuesday night gathering, at a rented coffee shop, that was averaging over 60 students per week.

Roots Family Church has a strategic partnership with Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) of Alaska. Through their annual camp, Christian Youth In Action (CYIA), Roots disciples and develops youth into leaders. These student leaders conduct weekly after-school Good News Clubs in public elementary schools across the Kenai Peninsula. It is here that the youth are trained to become disciple-makers. These trained youth not only lead the weekly youth group and conduct weekly Good News Clubs, but they also fly (with adult coaches) into remote villages across Alaska sharing the gospel and making disciples among indigenous people groups. Villages where Roots Family Church has ministered in include Good News Bay, Togiak, Quinhagak, and Bethel.

*Roots Family Church
2020 New Years Eve
Party over one hundred
people in attendance*



Sabbath Peace Fellowship

Chugiak, Alaska

Date Begun: January 1, 2016

Date Registered: December 6, 2018

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Eagle River

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Sabbath Peace Fellowship ministers to the Jewish community. Their outreach events include Passover Seder, Jewish Cultural Festival, Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) and Chanukah celebration. The pastor (Rabbi) is Michael (Connie) Safle, and the elder and youth leader is John "Danny" Brooks.

Salcha Baptist Church

Salcha, Alaska

Date Begun: April 1960

Date Constituted: September 17, 1961; reconstituted February 17, 1981

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, North Pole

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Beginning on the Foundation of Circuit Riding Preacher

Rev. Bingle, a circuit riding pastor conducted Protestant services along the Richardson and Alaska Highways and the Alaska Railroad from 1948-1960. He established a small chapel in a quonset hut

provided by Joe Balch at Mile 34 of the Richardson Highway. In April 1960, with Rev. Bingle's permission, First Baptist Church of North Pole began a mission in this quonset hut. The first pastor was William R. Wyser, a 17-year-old member of First Baptist Church, North Pole, who served until July of 1961.



Salcha Baptist Church

The next pastor, Robert W. Paquette who was stationed at Eielson Air Force Base, served the church from 1961-63 when he was transferred by the Air Force. On September 17, 1961, the mission was constituted as Salcha Baptist Church. In March 1962, a building was acquired from Eielson AFB to salvage materials for the construction of a new church. During the summer, members worked on the new building which was being constructed on property again donated by Mr. Balch. On October 1, 1962, the new sanctuary, located at Mile 34, was dedicated..

In May 1967, property was purchased at Mile 37, Richardson Highway, and a log parsonage was constructed by the members. Pastor Keith Foster and family occupied it in November. During the summer of 1970, the church decided to relocate to the new property

due to realignment of the Richardson Highway which would by-pass the existing building.

Construction on the basement of the new building was contracted in August 1970. The new basement was occupied in March 1971, and the old building was sold. A "Buy-a-Log" fund was conducted from June 1971 to August 1972, to raise money to complete the sanctuary. In the spring of 1974, the sanctuary was completed and occupied. Rayburn Moore was serving as pastor for his second tenure.

During Gerald A. King's pastorate (1983-89), a large two bay garage was built on the property in cooperation with the Salcha Rescue Team.

Mission Begun

In September 1963, the church began Eielson Park Baptist Mission (Moose Creek Baptist Church). Attendance at Salcha gradually declined due to the success of Eielson Park Mission and its proximity to Eielson AFB. Frank Miller was pastor at this time.

Salcha Church Reverts to Mission

Status:

Attendance was very low in April 1974 when Charles R. Liss became pastor. The Salcha Church voted to become a mission of Eielson Park to protect the Salcha property. Salcha remained a mission until January 1978. During the pastorates of Gene Medaris and Timothy Clark, the Mission grew and in December 1978 paid the mortgage on the church property.

Mississippi Work Team

During the summer of 1993, a team from Tishomingo County, Mississippi, worked with the members to renovate the interior of the sanctuary.

Long Time Church Member Becomes Pastor

In August of 1993, Richard A. Faught, a member of Salcha Baptist Church since 1978, was called as pastor. Richard was ordained by the church in January 1995, and he is currently serving as pastor.

Outreach Ministries of the Church

Salcha Baptist has 55 resident members involved in active ministries in the community. These ministries include: a clothes closet, tutoring, teaching English as Second Language, repairing bicycles,

maintaining a store of household items for those in need and a very active food distribution ministry. Others are involved in butchering and distributing road-killed moose, maintaining a pantry of canned and dry goods and distributing perishable goods from the Fairbanks Community Food Bank on Saturday mornings. Through these ministries, the church seeks to serve people by meeting their physical needs so they will be receptive to the message of salvation to meet their spiritual needs.

Pastors Who Have Served The Church

Pastors who have served the church are: William R. Wyser, 1960-61; Robert W. Paquette, 1961-63; Frank L. Miller, 1963- 1964; Ray E. Penfield, Mar. 1964-Aug. 1964; Rayburn P. Moore, 1964-1966; John Thomas, 1966-1967; Keith Foster, 1967-1970; Rayburn P. Moore, 1970-1974; Charles R. Liss, 1974-1975; Gene Medaris, 1975-1977; Timothy Clark, 1977-1979; Frank Starr, 1980-1981; Charles R. Liss, Feb. 1983-May 1983; Gerald A. King, Salcha's first full-time salaried pastor, 1983-1989; Ota Denver Buchanan, 1991-1993; Richard A. Faught, 1993-Present.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

The current membership in early 2021 is 80 people. Recent growth in the church include the acquisition of property that has become a picnic area, a large playing field, volleyball, badminton, horseshoes, outhouses and trails. This is a favorite spot for church summer picnics. Salcha Baptist Church has been active in Community and International ministries.

The current pastor, Mark Christensen, is also the camp director for Camp Baldwin. He began this ministry in 2000, while other church members were involved with the camp in the 1990s. Sum-

mer camp missionaries are housed and fed by church members. The summer camp missionaries also help with Vacation Bible School and the Community Carnival. The free carnival is a new community outreach program and in 2020 was coordinated with the Salcha Fair. Pastor Mark often is seen at Salcha Elementary School working with students, both academically and at special events. For many years the church had a moose road-kill ministry. Members of the church were called out to harvest the moose. The moose meat was donated to local families in need. Youth programs have long been a focus of the church. During the 1990s Pastor Richard Faught led a boy's group that worked on an old Packard. The car never ran, but the boys enjoyed learning mechanic skills. Today, the youth group is active in state and local conferences, Bible study, and community service.

The church is involved in several international outreach programs. Salcha Baptist Church began packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child in 2006. Ellen Leetch started with Operation Christmas Child in 2008 as the Collection Center Coordinator and became Area Coordinator in 2013. Salcha Baptist Church continues to be a drop off location and members serve as volunteers. In 2016 the church packed 1514 shoeboxes. The youth group has been actively engaged in this ministry for the last 10 years. International mission trips include: Tanzania, Belarus, Mali, and Honduras. The church also directly supports two international missionaries and a US missionary family.

Pastors in the last 25 years:

Jerry King
Denver Buchanan
Richard Faught
Mark Christensen

Sand Lake Fellowship

Anchorage, Alaska

Date Begun: April 2013

Sponsoring Church: Grandview Baptist Church

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Sand Lake Fellowship was started in the living room of David and Kristi Gamble in April 2013. They moved to 3340 Raspberry Road in September 2014 where they are today. The outreach is mostly to the neighborhood children in Sand Lake and Jewel Lake areas of Anchorage. There is a Sunday evening service.

David Gamble is the church-planter pastor. Beginning in 2020, due to COVID-19, the church has been meeting in parks. Summer of 2020 saw the beginning of an outreach benevolent construction ministry.



Sand Point Baptist Chapel

Sand Point, Alaska

Date Begun: circa 1950

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

The first church was established by the Methodists on Unga Island and then moved over to Sand Point as the economy of Unga Village changed.

This experiment failed quickly in the early 1950s. A family from Kodiak, John and Blanche Marshall, moved to Sand Point in mid-1950s. John

went to work for the seafood plant as the carpenter and they established Sunday School in their home. The Sunday School was a success but in 1958 a family problem developed and the Marshalls needed to leave.

The Marshalls met with Pastor Darrell Beville of Lake Spenard Baptist Church, part of the Baptist General Conference, to explain the dilemma of the community of 250 people being without a Sunday School or church. Pastor Beville flew out to Sand Point in early 1959 and recommended to the Home Mission Board of the Baptist General Convention that this was a favorable location for a mission. The Home Mission Board called David and Helen Clark who accepted and David held Easter services in the home with 80 people attending in 1960.

The seafood plant had a need for a medical facility and provided property to build a clinic. Dr. Carl and Fern Sandberg were called by the Home Mission Board and they began serving in Sand Point in 1961. A year and a half from the time the Marshalls had to depart, God arranged and brought in two families to establish the Medical Mission and Church in Sand Point. By early 1963 the Baptist General Conference Home Mission had built a

medical clinic and Dr's housing in Sand Point.

Sand Point Baptist Chapel established their Constitution and Bylaws in 1972 incorporating shortly after. With the Native Land Claims settlement and the development of Regional Medical entities the Baptist General Conference Home Mission decommissioned the clinic in the early 1980s. Sand Point Baptist Chapel had continued to grow under various pastors and a new larger church building was begun around 1984 while still meeting in the original small building erected in the 1960s.

As the Baptist General Conference presence in Alaska reduced, the body felt they needed to stay connected to other church families within the state. Sand Point Baptist Chapel joined with the Alaska Baptist Convention. The church building was completed in the late 1980s with seating space upstairs for 120 plus overflow classrooms.

Over the years the church has provided Sunday School, children's ministries including Boys and Girls clubs, VBS, Scouting, and a Christian School for several years. There

have been Women's ministries including Bible studies, quilting and crafts. The church has hosted Sweetheart banquets, Annual Fishermen's Pot-Luck, and regularly

scheduled PotLucks. There have been many helpful hands for these ministries and they include the faithful service of several families including Staney and Christine Mack, Steve and Sharon Hakala, Emil Gundersen family, John Murphy family, Patricia and Rob Curtis, Dave and Kathy Adams, Flip and Marguerite Felton.

The church and community have experienced expansion and retraction over the years. Pastor Scott and Judi Morgan began serving in September 2012 and have been blessed and witnessed God at work in the church and community. During the Covid Pandemic Sand Point Chapel has continued to serve and minister in their community. When it was required that there be no in-person meetings, Sand Point Chapel was able to broadcast their Sunday Worship messages over the local public radio station, KSDP, which allowed God's message to be heard in multiple other communities in that region. They are continuing to make these broadcasts and have heard from listeners in many of those other communities. God led Sand Point Chapel to begin a Celebrate Recovery weekly ministry which continues and is seeing growth in hearts as individuals begin to deal with various hurts, habits and hangups that keep people from growing with God through His Son Jesus Christ.

(The early history came from David Clark -- who passed in January of 2021.)



Set Free Church

Anchorage, Alaska

Date Begun: 2021

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Set Free Church, Anchorage, held a dedication service January 16. Josh Seely shared the vision of Set Free and Jim Hamilton gave a short history of Set Free Alaska. During the worship time, Zack Hamilton commissioned Josh (Katie) Seely as pastor using 2 Corinthians 5:17 as the anthem verse.



commissioning of Josh and Katie Seely as ministers of Set Free Church, Anchorage

Set Free Church

Kenai, Alaska

Date Begun: 2018

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Set Free Community Center and Church launched in 2018 from the home of Jim and Lisa Hamilton. The church has quickly grown from one core-extended family to being a new kind of family for more than 80 people. Set Free in Kenai operates a drop-in center, that is open 9 a.m.-6 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and on Sundays from 4 p.m.-8 p.m.. The center is a pool hall. The church's main weekly gathering, consisting of fellowship and food, is from 6-8:30 p.m. every Saturday. Set Free Community Center and Church also operates Christ-centered sober living homes, Set Free House, for men and women.

Mission

Set Free Ministries Alaska is a faith-based tax-exempt community benefit organization affiliated with the Alaska Baptist Resource Network (ABRN) that exists to help people find and follow Christ. They aim to see people set free and made whole, living a transformed life in Christ.

Impact

Set Free Community Center and Church cares for the "least of these" in Alaska. They establish community centers, faith communities and sober living homes, and provide recovery services to promote personal and community transformation. Set Free shows concern for people on the fringes of society by increasing access to

food, shelter, friends, and recovery support as they heal from their brokenness and learn self-care. Set Free recognizes that without an ecosystem of support, those in at-risk populations will continue to merely survive, rather than thrive.

Community Centers

Set Free operates "third place" venues throughout Alaska where human connections are made. These community capacity building spaces include, but are not limited to, pool halls, thrift stores, and other relevant social enterprises that meet a local demand.

Faith Communities

Set Free churches aim to see broken people live a transformed life in Christ. They believe in loving God with the whole heart, soul and mind; loving neighbors as ourselves; making disciples; and starting more churches to reach broken people for Christ.

Sober Living Homes

Set Free provides quality recovery homes that are faith-based, affordable, and gender specific. Their clients become part of a sober community of love, support, and family, discover who they are and where they want to go in life, and ultimately have a good time doing it.

Recovery Services

Set Free educates communities about the nature of addiction, recovery, and mental illness to reduce stigmas associated with addiction, and to build capacity among underserved populations throughout the State. This organization utilizes several non-clinical, peer-based activities.

Settler's Bay Community Church

Wasilla, Alaska

Date Begun: December 24, 2005

Date Constituted: January 9, 2006

Sponsoring Church:

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

The idea of starting a new church in Wasilla came from a discussion between Pastor Jim Hearn and Henry Couser of Noon Day Baptist Church. Noon Day Baptist Church of Marietta, Georgia, provided support to Jim and Brenda for the first two years, from 2006-2008. The church received monthly support from numerous churches including First Baptist Church of Zachary, Louisiana, First Baptist Church of O'Fallon, Missouri, College Heights Baptist Church, Soldotna, Alaska, and Washington Baptist Association of Fayetteville, Arkansas. Settler's Bay Community Church met for the first time on Christmas Eve 2005 at Wayland Baptist University's Wasilla campus. After that initial meeting, they met in January and February in the Wasilla home of Lee and Tonya Knowles, and planning began to secure a meeting place with a core group. That core group included Rich and Sarah Benedetto and their family. Rich and Sarah have faithfully served as worship leaders since. From March 2005 to December 2006, space was rented at Settler's Bay Lodge on Sundays. In January 2007 the church moved into their own rental space nearby where they could meet full time. As the church grew,

they purchased five acres of land on Knik Goose Bay Road. Mrs. Charlotte Stuart greatly supported the purchase of land and the building fund. A goal was set to raise \$100,000 before building, and construction began May 2011. They moved into the church in February 2012 with the help of volunteers Bobby and Lenora McIntyre of McIntyre Construction in Mt. Hermon, Louisiana; from Zachary Community Church, Louisiana; First Baptist Church of O'Fallon,

Missouri; College Heights Baptist Church, Soldotna; Washington Baptist Association of Fayetteville, Arkansas; Noon Day Baptist Church of Marietta, Georgia; Highland Baptist Church, Lee's Creek Baptist Church, and First Baptist Church of Bogalusa, Louisiana; and many other volunteers. Ron Lomax was instrumental in organizing many volunteer teams from Missouri and Arkansas.

Since 1977, Jim and Brenda's ministries were supported by Jim and Charlotte Stuart.

The church has occupied the new building since February 2012. In its history the church has been recognized for being in the top 10 percent, nationwide, in percentage of gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

The church has grown steadily since its start, but has decreased about fifty percent in attendance due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Settler's Bay Community Church looks forward to a return to more normal and healthy times and future growth.



Shannon Park Baptist Church

Fairbanks, Alaska

Date Begun: October 1956

Date Constituted:

Sponsoring Church:

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

(Formerly Calvary Baptist Church, and Airport Way Baptist Church)

Original Name

Shannon Park Baptist Church (formerly Calvary Baptist Church, Fairbanks) came into existence from the merger of Immanuel Baptist

Church and Native Baptist Church in October 1956. (Native had begun in 1953 and Immanuel in 1954.) John Thomas (Callie) was the first pastor.

Airport Way: Second Name

Bill Parsons, the second pastor, led the church in building a new sanctuary adjacent to the basement which was housing the church. The church continued to grow

under the leadership of Alfred Richards, John Jeffcoat and Eldridge Miller. The name of the church was changed to Airport Way Baptist Church to denote its location. Ray Hustead and Ray Nelson served the church during the 1970s. Mark Kisselberg, followed his father-in-law, Ray Nelson, and became pastor in 1981.

Due to road development of Airport Way which caused the property to be inaccessible, Airport Way Baptist Church decided to sell and relocate. The old building was sold in November 1983, and the church vacated the property by Thanksgiving 1984. For a few weeks, services were held at First Baptist Church. However, for two years, the church shared the facilities of Friendship Baptist Mission.

Relocation to Steese Highway - Shannon Park

In late 1984, property was purchased on Steese Highway and a

new building was begun in 1985. The new location necessitated another name change for the church. The church is now Shannon Park Baptist Church to identify its location in the Shannon Park Housing Development.

Five work teams from Texas, Florida and Arkansas enabled this small congregation to build

a beautiful new church facility. In December 1987, Shannon Park Baptist Church moved into the newly dedicated building. Mark Kisselburg was pastor. The new building is enjoyed by all and has received many compliments on the uniqueness of the design of the building. The next two years were spent completing the basement and making finishing touches on the interior.

In 1991, Mark Kisselburg resigned as pastor. The church had grown and the budget increased. In 1992, Rick Hill was called to be pastor. He resigned in December 1995, and the church is now in search of another pastor. The church is doing well and continues having an ever changing congregation.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Pastors who have Served

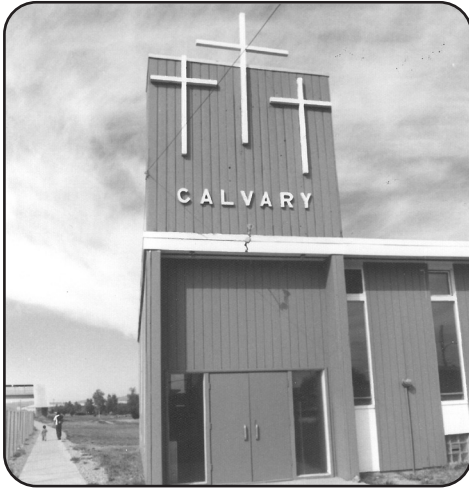
John (Cindy) Bills, 2000-2001

Jim (Bonnie) Hallcom, 2003-2005

Kelly (Cathy) Weaver, 2006-2012

Paul (Sharon) Wells, 2012-2015

Rodney (Deanna) May, 2016-Present



Shungnak Baptist Mission

Shungnak, Alaska

Date Begun: 1961
Date Constituted:
Sponsoring Church:

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

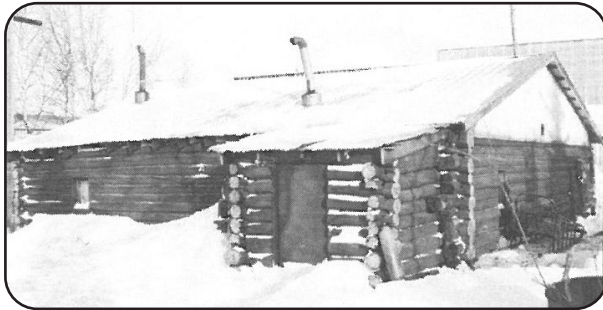
Vacation Bible School

John and Callie Thomas, missionaries at Kotzebue, began Baptist mission efforts in Shungnak by holding a Vacation Bible School in 1959. Vacation Bible School was held in the homes of Pansy Berry and Liz Lee for three years. No church services were held for several years.

In 1961, a log church building was started in Shungnak by John Thomas, Tommy Lee and Robert Lee. The building was raised eight logs high, but construction stopped when John Thomas resigned and left the Kotzebue field. Growth was slow and faltering.

US-2 Couples

In 1966, Norman and Gunita Harrell were appointed as US-2 missionaries to Kobuk. The Harrells, along with a work team from Tennessee and with financial assistance from Alaska Baptists, finished the building and it was dedicated in the fall of 1966.



Mike and Virgie Brown, another US-2

couple, were appointed to Kobuk/Shungnak area in 1968 and served until August 1970.

Visiting Missionaries

Valeria Sherard was designated visiting missionary to Shungnak; she served for two years following the Brown's leaving in 1970.

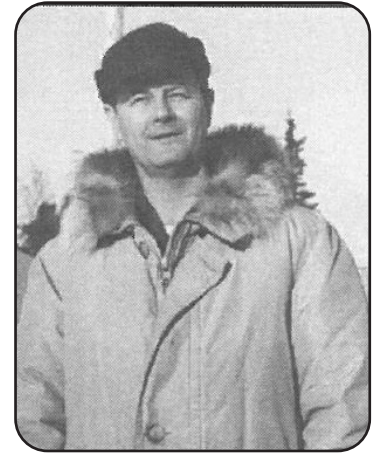
Harley and Martha Shield served as visiting missionary/pastor for 15 years.

Ray and Carol Addy began serving Shungnak in 1987. They lived in Ambler and served Ambler, Shungnak and Kobuk until they resigned in 1990. Don Haile became principal of the Shungnak School in 1988.

When Addy left, Don and Sarah began weekly children's Sunday School and adult Bible studies and continued until they moved to Buckland in 1993.

In 1991, Sid Martin (Marsha) was called as pastor to Kotzebue First Baptist Church and they began visiting Shungnak on a rotating basis with the other missions in the area. The Martins continue visiting Shungnak when possible and hold children's programs and preaching services. Vacation Bible School has about 40 children involved. The village has about 250 residents.

The Shungnak facility has a one-room sanctuary and a one-room pastor's cabin with water and sewer hook-ups. The building is a 30-year old log structure with problems beginning to develop. The goal for Shungnak is to have a mission pastor live in Ambler and serve Ambler, Shungnak and Kobuk. There has been no regular pastor since 1990, but a few dedicated Baptists are still there.



Missionary Harley Shield in Shungnak

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Pastors who have Served

John (Terri) Forrester, 2005, 2007
Brian (Debbie) Love, 2007-2011

Solid Rock Baptist Church

Anchorage, Alaska

Date Begun: December 7, 1986
Date Constituted: August 9, 1987
Sponsoring Church: New Hope Baptist Church, Anchorage

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

New Hope Eagle River Mission

New Hope's pastor, Carl Johnson, and Reverend Johnny Saffore shared the vision of establishing a mission outreach in Eagle River. The first meetings were home Bible studies. On December 7, 1986, the New Hope Eagle River Mission officially opened with Johnny Saffore as pastor.

Solid Rock Baptist Church

On August 9, 1987, the New Hope Eagle River Mission constituted as Solid Rock Baptist Church. Paul Brewer was called as the second pastor and served until summer of 1994. Solid Rock Baptist Church has met in several Anchorage locations and is currently

meeting in University Baptist Church facilities on Sunday afternoons. Frank Taylor was called as bi-vocational pastor in July 1995.

Growth and Outreach Ministries

The current membership is 135 with 70 enrolled in Sunday School with an average attendance of 45. There have been 17 new members to join the church since Pastor Taylor came a year ago. The church has an active youth group which has sponsored two Bible trivia events and a youth camp. The church has a bus ministry which provides transportation to Sunday School and other church activities.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Frank (Marian) Taylor continues as pastor.

St John Baptist Church

Fairbanks, Alaska

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Date Begun: September 18, 1953

Date Constituted: May 8, 1954

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Fairbanks

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Beginning

St. John Baptist Church, Fairbanks, was begun as a mission of First Baptist Church, Fairbanks, on September 18, 1953, with eleven persons, led by Rev. Robert Jackson. First Baptist Church helped buy the lot and put a Jamesway hut on the property. Charles Alston, who was serving in the Air Force, was called as the first pastor. In February of 1954, the church was constituted with 32 charter members.

Pastors

Through the years, the following have also served as pastors of St. John Church: Rev. Samuel Banks, now serving as pastor of Corinthian Baptist Church; Rev. Leroy Edwards, Rev. H.M. McCowen, Rev. James Hill with wife, Clarilane, and two daughters Kimberly and Sharon; and Rev. Robert Seals, who was the first white pastor of a black church in Alaska. Under the leadership of these men, St. John's membership grew, and they paid off the mortgage, licensed men into the ministry, and survived a fire and flood which seriously damaged the church foundation. With the prayers and dedication of the members, St. John withstood a church split.

In 1969, David T. Thomas, a deacon at St. John, was called to the ministry. He was ordained and became pastor. Under his leadership, a mission outreach was started in the Birch Park area and a bus ministry organized. Rev. Thomas was also responsible for initiating the construction of the new building. On July 8, 1975, the first shovel of dirt was dug by Rev. Thomas for the construction of a new basement. Work was halted at the on-set of winter, but resumed again in May 1976. During the construction period, church services were held in the gymnasium at Hunter Elementary School. The building, still in use, was dedicated on February 13, 1977.

In September of 1977, after setting up a child care center for the church, Rev. Thomas became ill with cancer, and Rev. Merrill Thompson, a member of the Corinthian Baptist Church was asked to fill the pulpit for him. On October 9, 1977, the Lord called Rev. Thomas home to glory, leaving his wife, Rubye, and daughter, Barbara. The church then called upon Rev. Thompson to serve as interim pastor. He served in this capacity until August 1979. Rev. Charles R. Barlow (Helen), a member of New Hope Baptist Church in Anchorage, was then called to be pastor.

Church Growth and Ministry Outreach

Under the leadership of Pastor Barlow, St. John has witnessed a tremendous spiritual growth as well as an increase in membership. The church has stood steadfast in the belief that God will bless and continue to bless the church that stands firm on His Word. The church has a bus ministry and an active outreach committee. The goal of St. John is to reach as many people as possible by sharing the Word of God and allowing God to save souls. The church supports local, state, home, and foreign missions special mission offerings and Cooperative Program gifts.

Programs which have been begun under Pastor Barlow's administration include: an annual Birth Tea, an annual Back to School Fashion Show, noon-time prayer and Bible study and Big A Club for children. Auxiliaries have grown to include four additional choirs, a Mother's Committee, Church Counselors, Children and Preschool Church, an active nursery, mission groups for men and women, and for boys and-girls of all ages. Reading through the Bible was started and led by Gladys Caston, and a new member class was started and taught by Rubye Thomas-Reynolds. Under Bro. Barlow's leadership there have been 360

people baptized.

The church has been blessed with an organ, a baby grand piano, other musical instruments, computer, copier, bus, a parsonage, an apartment building and many other things. A steeple has been added and a new church bus purchased. The sound system was upgraded and air conditioner installed in the sanctuary. In 1987, the Ray Jefferson family members gave property adjacent to the church for expansion.

Outreach teams, Eric and Angela Jones and B.B. and Rubye Reynolds minister to the jail. Husband and wife teams minister to Denali Center. All ten ministers and one missionary minister at the Rescue Mission. Food is provided by the church to the Food Bank, for Literacy School refreshments and other places as needed. Rubye Thomas-Reynolds teaches at the Literacy School and also leads a weekly prayer group. St. John provides cooks, teachers, and counselors for the associational camp at Delta Junction.

Deacon and Pastors Ordained/Licensed

After prayerful study, the following men have been ordained as deacons: Johnnie Davis, Randy Plummer, Eric Jones, Charles Anderson, Howard Harrell, Derick Maul, James Daniels, Anthony Story, Dewayne Waddy, John Thompson, L.V. Miller, Jerome Williams, William Brawley Willie Smith, Edward Smith and Lonzel Payton.

Ministers licensed by St. John are: Charles Gilbert, Kenneth Wright, David Sneed, James Miller, Johnny Thornton, Eric Jones, Cleveland Bartley, Barnett B. Reynolds, Tyrone Harris, Marlin Jones, Lawrence Jefferson, Daryl Davis, Leonard Killing, Karen Ellison, Diane Curry and Lonzel Payton.

Pastors who were ordained at St. John were: Charles Gilbert, Eric Jones, Cleveland Bartley and Barnett B. Reynolds. Pastor Barlow led the Life Commitment Service for Angela Jones, Evangelist, and Rubye Thomas-Reynolds, Missionary.

Mississippi Work Team

In June, 1995, a Mississippi work team (20 people) led by Rev. Ira Alley, came and put new siding on the church building and painted and upgraded the kitchen cabinets and garbage refuse containers.

Summary

A summary of the history of St. John Baptist Church indicates that many souls have been saved, many deacons have been ordained, many men have answered their calling to the ministry and have been licensed and/or ordained. St. John is a praying church. God's blessings have been received through much prayer and dedication of many members.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

On December 6, 2006, the church called Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. Ellison as Interim Pastor. In December 2008, Dr. Ellison was formally installed as pastor of St. John Baptist Church. Under Pastor Ellison's leadership, the church became debt-free. Several renovations and repairs were made: the building became handicap-accessible with a ramp and double doors, and the restrooms and kitchen were upgraded. A new van was purchased. Dr. Ellison continues to fill the needs of the church through preaching, teaching and counseling. They have added Open Windows Mission Bible Studies to their weekly schedule. After the COVID-19 Pandemic, St. John started using online tele-conference communication to continue Bible Studies, Sunday School, Worship Services and Meetings.

They are a praying church, and these are some of the blessings they have received in their 68 years of ministry. Through much prayer and dedication of many members, they know they serve a mighty God, and their strength comes from the Lord. Their goal still is to reach as many people as possible, sharing the Word of God, allowing souls to be saved. All praises to the King!

Sunset Hills Baptist Church

Anchorage, Alaska

Date Begun: July 1960

Date Constituted: September 10, 1961;

reconstituted December 14, 1995

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Anchorage

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Mississippi Team Leads In the Beginning

In the summer of 1960, Pastor William T. Carlson and Minister of Music Allen Meeks, came as a team from Mississippi to lead the new mission,

sponsored by First Baptist Church, Anchorage. A quonset hut served as the initial meeting place on the church's property at DeArmoun Road and Old Seward Highway.

Later that year the quonset hut was removed, and a small building was moved on to the property.

New Location and New Building

The present church site at 12130 Old Seward Highway was selected and purchased in 1966. Construction began on a new building in September of that year guided by contractor Frank Stockstill, a faithful member of the church. The first worship service held in the new building was on Easter Sunday, March 26, 1967. Pastor Roy Young led the church in a celebration of dedication of the building on November 26, 1967. Fifteen years later, an education wing was added under the leadership of contractor/member, Darrell Peterson. In 1985 the original building was completely renovated under the leadership of contractor/member Jim Tunnell. At that time new furniture was purchased and installed.

Community Ministries

Members of Sunset Hills have made significant contributions in community ministries throughout the church's history. Dorothy Priest became involved in community emergency actions following the 1964 earthquake and in 1982 the church prepared and served Thanksgiving meals to several families in two nearby trailer courts. In 1978 the church began a prison ministry led by Doug Edwards. Three men, Bill McCormick, Jim Watson and Bill Franklin, led the church in supporting the ministry of the Anchorage Rescue Mis-

sion. Several members, led by Marge Karamolegos, helped to give the First Native Baptist Church, Anchorage, a face lift in

1984. Mike Karamolegos and Jim Tunnell painted the interior of the building, and in 1985 church furniture was given to the Native Church.

In September 1991, under the direction of Shirley Miebs, Sunset Hills began an English and Citizenship School as an outreach ministry to the internationals of the community. This ministry is staffed by volunteers from our church and some from other churches in the association. It has been a joy to see people from other lands increase their knowledge of English and to help many become citizens of the United States. Some students have become involved in the church and several have been baptized.

In September 1994, Karen Chambers led the church in beginning the MOPS ministry. This program targets mothers with preschool children who do not work outside the home. MOPS provides three hours of uninterrupted study, discussion and craft time for Moms while their children are cared for by qualified volunteers from our church as well as other churches. The average attendance is about 25-30 Moms and about 40-50 children each session. These represent families who are not church active but who are great prospects for other ministries of our fellowship.

Church Growth

In 1968 there were 56 church members with a Sunday School enrollment of 51 and an average attendance of 27. By 1970 church membership had reached 147 with 166 enrolled in Sunday School and an average attendance of 80. In 1973 there was a decline with Sunday School enrollment at 82 and average attendance at 55 with a church membership of 146. In 1985, Sunday School enrollment reached 200 with an average attendance of 99 and church membership at 324.

Sunset Hills experienced a loss of membership from 1991- 94, due to people taking early retirement and various other reasons resulting in the church experiencing a drastic reduction in income. After much prayer and serious action, things were brought into balance. God has been good bringing several families to unite with the church in 1995-96. Sunday School enrollment stands at 117 with an average attendance of 68 with church membership at 450 plus. Income is up. Attendance is steadily climbing. New ministries have begun and there is a sweet spirit of unity and cooperation. Excitement is growing.

Missions Support

Sunset Hills Baptist Church has always been a strong mission-minded church giving support both physically and financially to Southern Baptist Convention, State, and Associational missions causes. Over the years many teams have been sent to assist in Vacation Bible School and Youth Activities in various parts of the State. In December 1984, a mission was begun in Girdwood pastored by Bob Colquette. But lack of progress led to its discontinuance in August of 1985.

Men Licensed and Ordained

Sunset Hills Baptist Church has licensed and ordained several men to the gospel ministry during its history. Among them are Allan Covington, Jim Watson, Jim Hamilton, Kim Clifton, Doug Briney and Doug Edwards.

Pastors of Sunset Hills

W.T. Carlson, 1960-61; Roy Young, 1961-68; Tom Kilpatrick,



Sunset Hills Baptist Church; Anchorage (cont.)

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1969-71; Rolla Bradley, 1972-73; Harold Manahan, 1973-74; Sherrill Lane, 1974-77; Neil G. Thompson had the longest tenure, 1977-87. When God called Neil to pastor a church in West Berlin, Germany, it was difficult for him to leave Sunset Hills. At that time he did not understand God's timing; however, when he witnessed the fall of the Iron Curtain of Communism, he knew why God had called him there. Jay George served the church from 1988-91 when he was called to a church in Tennessee. Sunset Hills celebrated its thirtieth anniversary on November 3, 1991, and on that day of celebration they extended a call to Judson D. Owen to be their eighth full-time pastor. The Owens are long-time Alaskans having served 13 years at First Baptist Church, Ketchikan, and four years as pastor of First Baptist Church, Palmer.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Missions Support

A Spanish language mission was started in in 2014 at Sunset Hills Baptist Church. Steve Kim served the first five years as the

mission pastor. Currently the mission is staffed by volunteers from the Spanish congregation. Sunset Hills supports several local mission ministries: Mosaic Campus ministry, Transitional ministries, and Urgent News Gospel Ministry, as well as the Southern Baptist and Alaska Baptist Convention.

Men Licensed or Ordained

(Add) Alvin Mason

Pastors of Sunset Hills

Judson Owen served for 19 years until his retirement in 2010.

Donald E Shannon, Jr. came as pastor September 4, 2011, having served in various ministries in Alaska since 1983 which included church planting, pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church, Director of Missions for Tongass Association and Alaska Baptist Convention CCM Director.

Tenakee Springs Community Church Tenakee, Alaska

Date Begun:

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Tenakee Springs Preaching Point

Tenakee Springs is located about 50 miles northeast of Sitka on Chichagof Island and has a population of about 100. In addition to serving Emmanuel, Brother Allison travels by float plane or ferry to minister at Tenakee Spring, a preaching point sponsored by Emmanuel. The bi-weekly (weather permitting) Baptist service is held in the Catholic Chapel with about 15 in attendance. Schedules are sometimes tight, and Brother Allison has been known to get back in Juneau just in time to walk up to the pulpit and start preaching on Sunday morning clad in boots, blue jeans and a flannel shirt. Only in Alaska!

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Pastors who have Served

Michael (Willa) Allison, 2000

Todd (Joyce) Lynn, 2003-2005

Brian (Lisa) Powell, 2007-2008

Earl (Shannon) Midkiff, interim, 2009-2009

Todd (Jodi) Buck, 2010-Present

The Crossing @ Birchwood

Chugiak, Alaska

Begun as First Baptist Church, Birchwood

Date Begun: 1958

Date Constituted: August 27, 1959

constituted as The Crossing at Birchwood, October 11, 1983

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Eagle River

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Purpose

The purpose of First Baptist Church of Birchwood, clearly stated in the church constitution, is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ through worship, discipleship and outreach; to win people to Christ and to expand His church in obedience to His last instruction before His ascension (Acts 1).

Beginning

In the summer of 1958, Ruby Joines opened her home for morning and evening Bible Study Fellowship, led by Marcus F. Price, pastor of the sponsoring church. These services ceased after some time because of measles in the home. On April 12, 1959, the mission reopened on newly acquired property at Mile 21 on Old Glenn Highway and began meeting in a quonset hut. On August 27, 1959, the mission constituted as First Baptist Church, Birchwood. From 1959-1965, four men pastored the Birchwood including Frank Miller, C. E. Stites and Sgt. George Kesterman.

Church Growth

Robert (Bob) Chadwick (Joan) has been pastor of First Baptist Church, Birchwood, since June 1965. At that time, the church was still meeting in the quonset hut at Mile 21 of the Old Glenn Highway. In 1969 the church purchased a two-acre site on Birchwood Loop for relocation. The church continued growing while the three-story new building was under construction. The first service was held in the new building on Mother's Day 1972. This spacious new facility allowed for continued growth during the next ten years. During this period, First Baptist Church, Birchwood, was one of the fastest growing churches in Alaska and in the top 3½ percent of Southern Baptist churches in the nation in ministry growth and baptisms.

By 1981 the church facility had reached its physical limit in worship and educational space, and the active membership leveled off at about 200.

Missions Sponsored

In June 1978, First Baptist Church, Birchwood, began Wasilla Mission which was constituted as First Baptist Church, Wasilla, in June 1982.

On June 2, 1981, First Baptist Church, Birchwood, voted to sponsor the Inlet View Baptist Mission in Anchorage and called Clifford S. McConnell as pastor. Brother McConnell retired at the end of 1985 and on January 5, 1986, Inlet View Mission and Greatland Mission voted to merge with Terry Hill as pastor. In July 1987 Inlet View Baptist Church was constituted. The name was later changed to Rabbit Creek Community Church.

Growth and Expansion Continues

In 1991, the church again was forced to remodel to make room for church growth. After remodeling the front of the auditorium and knocking out two rooms in the back, the auditorium space grew and so did attendance. Education space was full to capacity, so in 1992, youth and adult Sunday School were eliminated in the mornings and adults were moved off campus into Sunday Night Home Bible Fellowships. Immediately, adult participation in Bible study increased.

In 1993, the church bought an adjacent lot, which in combination with the property already owned, will allow for both a new building and parking to serve 750-1,000 people. Long-range planning has included determining the most effective way to expand, assessing the needs to be met in the new structure, preparing architectural drawings and exploring means of financing the project. A steering committee of 25-30 individuals are looking at these four key areas which the church calls Vision 2000. Their efforts have resulted in a conceptual drawing which calls for a multi-purpose auditorium capable of seating 600 people and also adding a substantial amount of education space. The committee led the church through "Together We Build" pledge program in 1994. The pledge program is still active with over \$650,000 pledged by the end of 1995.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

In the late 90s First Baptist Church, Birchwood changed its name to Birchwood Community Church. In 2008 it changed its name to The Crossing.

Brad (Laura) Rud, became Senior Pastor in 1999

Vacation Bible School in June is a huge community outreach having had up to 500 kids involved. The church has conducted a large outreach during the Bear Paw festival in Eagle River for the past seven years. In July and every fall The Crossing does a large community outreach for children. The church helped establish, and supports, Birchwood Christian School and has seen it grow each year. This school is now a dually accredited ACSI school serving preK-12th grade students. The Cross-

ing sends out multiple mission teams each year both in-state and internationally.

The Crossing church has completed one building project that included the current main building including auditorium/gym, office spaces, classrooms and preschool space. They

are currently working on completing a building project that includes a courtyard including a coffee shop/bookstore, common spaces, many more classrooms and large meeting spaces for children and youth ministries



Thorne Bay Baptist Church

Thorne Bay, Alaska

page 111

Date Constituted: October 31, 2003

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Thorne Bay Mission is located on Prince of Wales Island and First Baptist Church assumed sponsorship of this mission in 1993. Sunday morning and evening and Tuesday evening services are held in the Thorne Bay School for this community of 650 population. Ken Blankenship (Lois) is serving as pastor of Thorne Bay Mission which has an attendance of between 20-25 each week.

Pastors who have Served

Kennith (Lois) Clark, 2000-2002
Dean (Nadine) Blankenship, 2003, 2006-2009
Phil (Linda) Clark, 2010-2014
Willie (Gail) Austin, 2015-2017
Shane Nyquest, 2017-2018
Jeffrey (Karen) Clark, 2019-Present

Togiak Baptist Mission

Togiak, Alaska

Date Begun: 1993

Sponsoring Church: Faith Baptist Church, Anchorage

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Gospel Team Ministry in Togiak

Beginning back in 1986, Don Rollins and the Alaska Baptist School of Theology took brothers Paul and Peter Frost and other students on a gospel team trip to Togiak. That same year David Baldwin worked on starting a relationship through the Oklahoma Baptist Convention to bring Indian Evangelists to Alaska to preach revivals. When they came to Alaska, J.D. Back, state missions director, called Peter Frost to assist in making arrangements for Indian Evangelists Jimmy Anderson, Alan Colbert, Robert Colbert, J.B. Dreadful water, J.B. Fish and Bill Barnett to travel to villages from Glenallen to the Northway area.

The following year Jimmy Anderson called Peter and Paul Frost to discuss a five-year plan for Indian Evangelists to travel to Alaskan villages and preach the Word of God. The first gospel team went to Togiak in the fall of 1987. Peter and Paul Frost arranged with the Moravians to use the Moravian church building in Togiak for evening services. Paul Frost went to Togiak ahead of the evangelist to arrange with the school principal for housing for the men and to schedule times during the day when they could meet with the student body. Paul also met with the church leaders and laity of Togiak to inform the people of the revival team's daily schedule.

Togiak Baptist Mission

During those years, Jimmy Anderson and Paul Frost prayed that God would send someone to Togiak by the time the five-year plan

ended. In the Spring of 1992, Paul Frost surrendered to preach at Faith Baptist Church, Anchorage, and subsequently was ordained to the gospel ministry. During the summer of 1993, Paul and Laura and their boys, Aaron, Adrian and Alan, moved to Togiak and began the work of the Togiak Baptist Mission.

Paul writes: "We thank the Lord for His faithfulness and blessings in this mission field. Our work has not been without struggles and problems and growing pains. The first year was spent building bridges and getting to know the people as pastor and pastor's wife. I thank the Lord that he provided a wonderfully talented wife who can sing, play the piano and guitar and teach the Bible. Our God is Great."

Paul and Laura have focused their ministry on the young people of Togiak. Paul says, "we pray that God will lift up as many as possible to carry on the work among the Yupik Eskimo people. Last year we averaged 40 young people on Tuesday and Thursday nights. This year we have averaged around 30 young people each week. Laura averages 15 on Sundays for Sunday School and Paul teaches English speaking men and women which is usually around 5.

Paul and Laura praise the Lord for his faithfulness and blessings on their ministry in Togiak. Please pray for them and the young people of Togiak.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Paul (Laura) Frost has served faithfully in Togiak, and continues as pastor there.

Transitional Ministries

Anchorage, Alaska

Date Begun: April 30, 2014

Sponsoring Church: Sunset Hills Baptist Church, Anchorage

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

At the invitation of Elsie Snodgrass, on April 30, 2014, The Church @ Commodore Park held its first worship service at Commodore Park Plaza, an independent living facility for senior adults. In November of 2017, The Church @ Commodore Park expanded its minis-

tries and “re-branded” as Transitional Ministries. While the original focus of Bible studies and worship services for the residents continued, The Church @ Commodore Park/Transitional Ministries began serving people in the midst of life’s transitions. Partnering with other non-profits, they have been able to minister through feeding ministries, transportation assistance, cultural and social activities, grief support, and more. The Church @ Commodore Park/Transitional Ministries is a mission ministry sponsored by Sunset Hills Baptist

Church and Mike Procter has been its pastor/executive director since the beginning.



The Church @ Commodore Park/Transitional Ministries meeting place

True North Church

Anchorage, Alaska

Date Begun: 2010

Date Constituted: August 6, 2010

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

True North has been in constant flux for the past year. We have changed location, meeting times, and more.

True North held its first service on October 17th, 2010.

The elders are Philip Coleman, Scott Belmore, and Ian Johannes.

True North Church is built around preaching the Bible and small groups.

This church met for several years at Clark Middle School. They currently meet in the building of First Baptist Church, Anchorage.

Pastors who have Served

Brent (Cari) Williams, 2009-2016

Jason (Caroline) Lankford, 2016-2018

Philip (Andi) Coleman, 2019-Present

True North Church

Girdwood, Alaska

Date Begun: 2014

Sponsoring Church: True North Church, Anchorage

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Pastors who have Served

Jason (Caroline) Lankford, 2014-2016

Brian (Debra) Hicks, 2016-Present

UBC Chinese Fellowship

Fairbanks, Alaska

page 113

Date Begun: March 1993

Date Constituted:

Sponsoring Church: University Baptist Church, Fairbanks

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

(Formerly Chinese Christian Fellowship)

Nine Years of Effort

The Chinese Christian Fellowship is a group of Chinese Christians and seekers meeting together every Sunday night for Bible study and worship under the sponsorship of University Baptist Church. This fellowship is the result of nine years of effort targeted at evangelizing the Chinese of Fairbanks. Most of those attending are mainland Chinese students who are studying at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Initial contact was made as many Chinese began attending the Literacy School at Friendship Baptist Mission. Some also attended the Easy English Sunday School Class there on Sunday mornings.

First Chinese Christian

The first Chinese person to become a Christian from this original number was Ding Yi Wang. He prayed to receive Christ at English School in the spring of 1988. He had always wanted to know about God. He had been under house arrest in China as a young man for listening to Radio Free Europe. As a teenager, he had reached his hand into a burning pile of books and pulled out a Bible. Guy Zody, the BSU director at UAF at that time, disciplined him.

On Campus Bible Study for Internationals

In the fall of 1989, under the sponsorship of the BSU, Nancy Baldwin began an on-campus Bible study for internationals. Mostly Chinese students came. That first semester 24 students enrolled in the Bible study. There was obviously a great deal of curiosity on their part regarding Christianity.

Grace Chinese Baptist Church, San Jose, California

In the summer of 1990, Grace Chang, a leader in the Chinese community, received a phone call from the Grace Chinese Baptist Church in San Jose, California. Their associate pastor, Rev. Moses Pan, wanted to send a revival team to Fairbanks. Grace called Nancy Baldwin, and as a result of this contact, a cooperative relationship between the San Jose church and University Baptist began. The revival team that came, and all who have come each year since then, have been well received and most effective in sharing the gospel in the Chinese language. Jerry Lo, a deacon at the Grace Chinese Baptist Church, has been the team leader each year.

Fairbanks Chinese Christian Fellowship

After the March 1993 evangelistic activities, the Fairbanks Chinese group decided to begin meeting every second and fourth Sunday nights for worship. Ronnie Prevost and David Baldwin agreed to do the preaching. Tom and Grace Chang committed to lead the worship and Rosalind Kan volunteered to translate. Nancy Baldwin continued to coordinate the efforts.

Retired missionaries from Taiwan, Harry and Frances Raley, came to help the Chinese Fellowship the summers of 1994 and 1995. They moved the work forward tremendously. During this time the fellowship added a summer family camp at the Tanana Valley Baptist Association campgrounds. Now the Chinese Christian Fellowship meets every Sunday night.

As of December 10, 1995, a total of 17 Chinese have made professions of faith as a result of Baptist outreach to the Chinese in

Fairbanks. Professions of faith are usually made shortly before the student leaves as it takes one to two years to reach them with the gospel message. In light of this and the fact that the target population generally has no plans to remain in the Fairbanks area, the worship group will probably remain a fellowship. Great effort will continue to be made to disciple those who become Christians and put them in touch with a Baptist church in their new location.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

When Howard and Judy Zach began their ministry with the Chinese Mission in 2000, mission attendance included three or four residents with the rest of the Chinese attendees being graduate students or researchers. The ministry continued meeting for Friday night fellowship and Bible study, and Sunday night worship or Bible Study.

The first Thanksgiving with the Mission in 2000 began a new tradition, an opportunity to expand cultural awareness to new Chinese students as well as teach them about our country's Christian heritage. A traditional Thanksgiving dinner for the Chinese Community was begun and continues to be used as a way to meet, teach, fellowship, and invite the Chinese Community to hear about God.

In 2001, after prayer, and discussion with the UBC pastor and the Director of Missions, the Chinese Fellowship decided to ask for mission status. In October University Baptist Church (UBC) voted to give the Chinese Fellowship Mission status. This would be used later to help bring a pastoral candidate to the Chinese Mission.

It soon became evident that while reaching others for Christ is the ministry focus, the Mission needed permanent members to provide leadership and assist with discipleship responsibilities. The Mission prayed for permanent members and God graciously sent us Yilong Ma and Shufen Wu as the first Chinese Christians to transfer by statement from another Chinese Christian Church. They became our first permanent Fairbanks resident members.

In 2004 the Chinese Mission interviewed its first potential pastor from China. The group did not vote to call him as pastor, but it was a good experience for them in learning how a church works. It was also a new experience for them to learn that they can actually have an opportunity to vote.

As the Chinese Mission grew and membership increased the need for family ministry and other ministry needs became apparent. In December 2005, the Chinese Mission ordained its first deacon, Yilong Ma. Mingchu Zhang was also elected as deacon. David Baldwin, Alaska Baptist Convention Executive Director and his wife, Nancy, participated in the ordination service.

In the fall of 2006 Tony Liu, a lay leader in his church in San Francisco, CA, came to work with the Chinese Mission. He provided invaluable leadership for the group as he disciplined members, organized them into committees and showed them how to minister to the needs of others. The ministry was blessed to have him for a year.

In 2008 the Chinese government sent its first undergraduate students to the University of Alaska, Fairbanks campus. There were 24 of them and the mission gave them a grand welcome. They heard the word of God preached several times and were treated to an evening meal at the home of Pastor Gary and Jennifer Cox where Chinese Christians also shared their testimonies.

Summer of 2020, the Chinese government sent 10 more undergraduate students and the mission (thanks to the evangelistic spirit

UBC Chinese Fellowship; Fairbanks (cont.)

of its members) soon had them in church for a meal and worship service.

Currently the Chinese Mission meets every Friday night for a potluck dinner and worship. Pastor Gary Cox preaches three Friday nights and Mack Snowden preaches the fourth Friday night. During the winter months they meet for home Bible studies on Sunday afternoon and evening and attend the Pastor's Discovery Sunday School Class on Sunday morning. Howard and Judy teach the children's Bible study on Friday evening.

Christmas and Easter celebrations gave the opportunity to join UBC for special services. Pastor Gary Cox has preached for the

Chinese Congregation for 20 years, has baptized many Chinese believers and has met with the leadership as needed for advice, counsel and encouragement.

The Covid 19 Pandemic has affected the Chinese Congregation as it has all churches. Once it is safe, the Chinese will re-group and meet again. We pray for the continued meeting, spiritual growth and numerical growth of Chinese Christians in Fairbanks.

At this writing, there are 43 baptized members of the Chinese Mission. Over the years, God has sent many of the members out to other states to be missionaries to other Chinese and even some have chosen to return to China. God has truly been at work in the Chinese community. We know His faithfulness will continue.

Unalaska Reformed Church Unalaska, Alaska

Date Begun:

Date Constituted: October 19, 2016

Sponsoring Church:

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

The local church in Unalaska, AK (Dutch Harbor), started almost five years ago now. The motivation behind the church plant was to establish a healthy local church in Unalaska, where the gospel would be heralded, and the church strengthened by regular, faithful preaching. Three core families started the church, and within the first year it was decided to join the Southern Baptist Convention in Alaska. The desire of the church body was to join arms with other faithful churches throughout the state of Alaska for mutual encouragement and for the shared interest of reaching our state for Christ. Soli Deo Gloria!



University Baptist Church

Anchorage, Alaska

page 115

Date Begun: February 27, 1958

Date Constituted: March 22, 1959; reconstituted March 15, 1989

Sponsoring Church: Grandview Baptist Church, Anchorage

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Tudor Road Baptist Mission/Church

Tudor Road Baptist Mission was begun when God provided Grandview Baptist Church with the offer of pastoral leadership, property and a building to begin a new mission on Tudor Road. Ernest Ragland, a member of Faith Baptist Church who had recently surrendered to the ministry, offered to devote time and effort as pastor to develop a new mission. The Milo Forsmoes enthusiastically offered to donate a quonset hut and property in the area for a new mission. With a pastor, property and a building, Grandview voted to proceed with necessary steps to start Tudor Road Mission on February 27, 1958.

The Tudor Road Mission was constituted on March 22, 1959, as the Tudor Road Baptist Church. A military barracks building was moved to the present location, and a work crew raised the building, constructed a concrete block building under it, and then lowered the barracks onto the first floor to complete the two-story building.

University Baptist Church

In 1963, Tudor Road Baptist Church was renamed University Baptist Church due to its proximity to the University of Alaska, Anchorage campus. The military barracks was remodeled. A pastorium was constructed adjacent to the church in the fall of 1970.

In 1974, a new church auditorium building was completed, and by 1975 all the classrooms in the daylight basement were in use. In the spring of 1979, the old barracks part of the first unit building was replaced with a new structure which provided space for offices, classrooms, and a library. A new stucco and granite finish was applied to the blocks of the first unit to match the finish of the second unit. A new steeple was completed and a lighted sign was installed.

From 1976-1979, Ruby Powell directed a child care center at University Baptist. Jim Studstill was called as Minister of Music and Youth in September 1980.

Mission Outreach

In 1983, University sponsored the Calvary Baptist Mission (later named Cottonwood Shores Baptist Mission) in Wasilla. Jere Scott was called as mission pastor, and he and Peggy arrived on September 15, 1985. A mission site was purchased at the corner of Bear and Bogard Road, and a first unit building was constructed.

University Baptist began a Baptist Student Union Ministry on the University of Alaska Anchorage campus in the fall of 1995. A

weekly praise and worship service is held on Tuesday evenings at 8 p.m. on campus with about 25 attending. Two small group Bible studies also meet each week, plus a weekend recreational event is scheduled. Erin Barrett, a member of University, is serving as president of the BSU. Two semester missionaries, Jeannie Collins, Memphis, Tennessee, and Linda Kinberling, Columbia, Missouri, arrived in January, 1996, and served in this ministry through May. Financial support for the student outreach comes from University Baptist, Chugach Association, and the Alaska Baptist Convention. Future plans include the calling of a permanent Baptist Student Union Director.

Pastors of University

Pastors of University Baptist Church include: Ernest Ragland, 1958-59; A.C. Maxwell, 1960-62; Richard Lunsford, 1962-63; Gus Hayworth, 1964-68; George Wilkinson, 1968-69; Keith Foster, 1970-1987; Sam Dunham, 1988-89; Jim Heam, 1989-91; Ron Schum, 1992-94; Timothy Miller, 1994-Present.

University's Challenge

University Baptist Church is facing the challenge of ministering to the clients of the Anchorage Rescue Mission, the students at the University of Alaska, the families of patients at the new Native hospital, and the residents of a nearby retirement community. The church is looking to add additional staff in music and student work as well as expanding the educational space soon.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

In 2012 UBC began an attempt to build a multicultural congregation that might mirror the ethnic diversity found in Anchorage. The goal was to design a multicultural worship experience in English for all the congregation, plus small groups in various languages for ethnic constituencies. Currently UBC has six small groups of various demographics using English, Samoan, and Palauan, and has set a goal to seek multicultural staff.

In 2014 UBC received occupancy on an administration and classroom building that was begun in 1996. The building added about 9000 square feet of additional space. It is currently used for a dining hall, pastoral offices, and a student ministry.

Pastors who have Served

Don Bowery 1997-2011

George Nytes 2013-2016

Willie Tauanuu 2016-2021

University Baptist Church

Fairbanks, Alaska

Date Begun: December 15, 1958

Date Constituted: June 3, 1961

Sponsoring Church: Calvary Baptist Church, Fairbanks

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Baptist Ministry for University Students

L.A. Watson, Alaska Baptist Convention Executive Director, John Dickerson, pastor, and Jim Whisenant, layman, were all three convinced that a Baptist ministry was urgently needed in College near the University campus. They believed that a facility should be available for student worship and this outreach should begin immediately.

In 1958, after John Dickerson felt led to move from Big Lake to begin the new mission in College, property was purchased at College Road and Hess Avenue by the three men with the vision, as they dug deep into their personal pockets for required earnest money. A double car garage which had been used by the Native Church was moved onto the new property adjacent to a house located on the property.

The Dickerson family moved into the tiny two bedroom house. The Dickersons, Whisenants, and Fox families began working on the garage to ready it for worship. James Whisenant designed a network of slats that made an attractive steeple. Inside, wine-colored drapes were hung, fluorescent bulbs were installed and a hand-me-down pulpit and communion table were put in place. The pews were made by Carle Smith. Heat was provided by a space heater that was difficult to regulate. The first service was held on a sunny but very cold Sunday morning (December 15, 1958) with about 17 in attendance. All the older children and adults joined the new mission that morning except one who came by profession of faith and baptism. The mission was organized as University Baptist Church in December 1959. James Whisenant and John Shilling were ordained as the first deacons of the church. Four of the 17 charter members are still active in the church: John and Ann Shilling and Jim and Elizabeth Whisenant.

Baptist Student Union

James Whisenant began a Baptist Student Union program while he was a student at the University of Alaska, and he was eager to see a Baptist church established that would minister to University of Alaska students. Pastor John Dickerson and wife, Alvilda, supported the BSU endeavor through the outreach of the church. Alvilda Dickerson was the first BSU Director and she served in 1959 and 1960. There were 40 in attendance at one BSU meeting. Dr. Skarland, professor of Anthropology, is reported to have said, "The way you people at the Baptist Mission are all working on campus is the way missions ought to happen."

When Dr. James T. Burdine was called as pastor, he continued to support the BSU program at the church facility. The Home Mission Board contributed funds to the church for the support of student ministries. The church basement was designated for student center activities. Later Pastor Vern Baker directed student fellowships and

Bible study on designated nights. Sometimes the attendance would reach one hundred. This interest in student work was continued by Pastor Danny Riggs. While Gene Medaris was pastor, Joe and Sally Glaze, US-2 appointees of the Home Mission Board, were assigned to the church to work with students.

Church Growth and Building Expansion

Beginning in 1958, the church was involved in purchasing property and building construction. That year a double-car garage was moved onto the property. Sunday School rooms were added to the back of the garage. Seth Moore was volunteer building superintendent. As the church continued growing, the garage attached to the house was utilized for educational space. In 1964, a basement was dug and concrete walls poured and enclosed for worship. James Boney, from Texas, was the building superintendent using volunteer labor. In 1967, the members, with the help of a group of students from Kentucky, supervised by Peter Beard, built the superstructure. The 1967 Fairbanks flood ruined the basement. With the aid of the Southern Baptist Convention



Brotherhood, which sent work crews to all the Fairbanks churches, the church was cleaned up and the damaged areas rebuilt. In 1968, a work party from Tucson, Arizona, finished the superstructure. Carle Smith built the altar railing, the pulpit, and communion table. Another member contributed money to purchase the pews which are still in use today. The first service held "upstairs" was November 1968.

A parsonage was built in 1972 off Yankovich Road. John Honeycutt from Arizona was the volunteer builder. In 1977 an ADCO educational unit was added to the church, and in 1981, an annex between the sanctuary and education building was built.

In the summer of 1994, the church built a 10,000 square foot education building to replace the ADCO building. This was done mostly with volunteer labor. Work teams from Mississippi and Georgia and individuals from Missouri and Texas came to help. Bill Shepherd from Melrose, Florida, was hired as the building supervisor.

Strong Supporter of Missions

University has always been a strong supporter of missions. The budget has always allowed for a larger than average percentage to go through the Cooperative Program. For a number of years, University led the state convention in giving to Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Gifts through Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and State Missions Offering are always generous too. The church has budget items for the Alaska School of Theology, Fairbanks Rescue Mission, Tanana Baptist Association and other mission designations. Back in 1960, the church financed travel to the United States for Joseph Okadara's bride from Nigeria, West Africa. Joseph was a student at the University of Alaska and a member of the church.

Fourteen groups have been sent from University to participate in mission projects in Tanzania starting in 1983. David Miller and Sid Childers have gone each year staying anywhere from six weeks to five months. They, along with numerous other members, helped build many churches, a hospital, an English School, a pastorium,

helped establish a better system of communication by installing a two way radio system, and helped with routine projects for the missionaries. The church contributes directly to this mission project.

University Church also contributed both monetarily and with actual labor to the building of the Tanana Association camp at Delta Junction. Another project was to send church members to several Alaskan villages to teach Vacation Bible School.

Establishing New Missions

Through the years, University Baptist Church has extended mission support in establishing new work in Alaska. In 1966, a mission was begun in Anderson near Clear Air Force Base. The church also began the original mission work in Nome and later transferred sponsorship to First Baptist, Anchorage. In 1984, two missions were begun: Goldstream and Fox with Alan Buescher as pastor. Because of the transitory nature of residents, it was thought wise to strengthen the work by absorbing Fox Mission into one work at Goldstream. Property was purchased, a used building moved in and adapted to church use. The mission grew and formed into a church in 1990.

The church has numerous "in house" projects that are mission oriented. There is a fully functioning Spanish Mission led by Ramon

Deleon, a Chinese Fellowship that meets on Sunday evenings, a literacy missions ministry, and for a short time, the church had an afternoon Sunday School for Native children. This was highly successful; however, the project had to be abandoned due to lack of available teachers who could expend the time and energy.

Pastors

Pastors who have served University Baptist Church are: John T. Dickerson, 1958-1960; Dr. J.T. Burdine, 1961-1967; Yem Baker, 1968-1972; Gene Medaris, 1972-1975; Omer Erby, 1976-1978; Danny Riggs, 1978-1980; Dr. Franklin D. Holley, 1981-1990; Dr. Ronnie Prevost, 1991-1994; and Thomas Cocklereece, 1995-Present.

The church has ordained four men to the Gospel Ministry: David Stovner, 1978; Tim Morris, 1984; Alan Buescher, 1985; and Ramon Deleon, 1994.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Pastors who have Served

Gary (Jennifer) Cox, 1999-Present

Grady Cox, associate pastor, 2019-Present

Valley View Baptist Church Eagle River, Alaska

Date Begun: November 4, 1984

Date Constituted: March 28, 1993; reconstituted August 10, 1998

Sponsoring Church: Grandview Baptist Church, Anchorage

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Five-acre Tract - \$375,000

When Grandview Baptist Church, Anchorage, voted to sponsor a church-type mission in Eagle River in January 1984, a five-acre tract of land at Eagle River Loop Road and SunBeau, came on the market at a cost of \$375,000. The owner made a \$50,000 donation reducing the purchase price to \$325,000. The church raised \$125,000 down payment in three balloon payments. In preparation for beginning the mission, a team from First Baptist Church, McKinney, Texas, visited 1,326 homes and distributed information on the new mission to almost 4,000 residents in a half-dozen subdivisions. Through a joint effort of Grandview and Valley View, the property was paid off in late 1993.

Home Fellowship Meetings

Grandview Church called Michael and Suzanne Shumock to pastor the new mission in September 1984. A joint-agreement of support was drawn up between Grandview, Chugach Association and the Alaska Baptist Convention/Home Mission Board. At the organizational meeting on October 4, 1984, it was decided that

fellowship meetings would be held in the homes of the seed families during the month of October. During the month, major clean-up and renovation of the house on the property was done to provide a parsonage for the Shumocks. Funds for the pastor's moving expense and the renovation of the house were provided by the Home Mission Board through the Alaska Baptist Convention.

Mission Meets in Gruening Junior High School

On November 4, 1984, the first public meeting of the Valley View Baptist Mission was held at Gruening Junior High School, Eagle

River with 35 attending Sunday School and 47 in morning worship. Valley View experienced rapid growth. Soon a site development plan was approved by the Municipality and a land use permit was received on May 23, 1986.

Mission Chapel

In 1986, a building on the property was moved, completely renovated and enlarged to become the Mission Chapel with seating space for 125. The double-car garage of the parsonage was enclosed and used for educational space for the first time on Sunday, May 24, 1986.



The Chapel, dedicated in September 1986 at a cost of about \$60,000, remains in use 10 years later. When the Shumocks purchased a home, the house on the property became the educational/fellowship building. Records show that in 1987, the resident membership was 64 with an average Sunday School attendance of 40 and 10 new members had been received by baptism. Mike Shumock resigned

Valley View Baptist Church; Eagle River (cont.)

in 1987 and Royce Laseter (Sandra) was called as pastor in March 1988.

Valley View Baptist Church

Valley View Baptist Church was constituted on March 28, 1993. Since then the church installed a baptistry and were given pews by First Baptist Church, Wasilla. The 1994 Church Profile reports the membership to be 83 with 56 enrolled in Sunday School with an average attendance of 15, with 5 additions by baptism.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Throughout the lifetime of the church, Valley View Baptist Church (VVBC) has maintained its character as a small, family church with an average attendance ranging from thirty to forty people at worship service. In addition to the regular weekly services,

VVBC has an active Ladies Group, prayer meeting, and Sunday School. The church actively supports the SBC Cooperative Program with quarterly contributions and prayers. Additionally, VVBC has focused on two other primary ministries. The first is our partnership and sponsorship of the Eagle River Korean Baptist Church (ERK-BC) under the leadership of Pastor Hong Rae Lee. ERKBC has been using VVBC facilities for their services and ministries for over twenty-five years and the two congregations gather together twice a year for a joint English-Korean Service at Easter and Christmas Eve. Our second primary ministry is supporting the Alaska Correctional Ministries which provides services for inmates at Highland Women's prison. Chaplain Blodgett, a VVBC member, is the ministry's primary Spiritual Advisor and VVBC provides funding, additional volunteer Bible Study leaders, and prayer support to this important ministry. VVBC: a small church with a BIG Heart for Jesus!

Wasilla Korean Baptist Church Wasilla, Alaska

Date Begun: January 1, 2000

Date Constituted: February 27, 2009

Sponsoring Church:

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Wasilla Korean Baptist Church was founded at the turn of the millennium by Pastor Dongmin Park. Pastor Park, a minister in Fairbanks, moved to Wasilla where he started holding services in a building shared by First Baptist Church of Wasilla. He was followed by Pastor Daniel Moon until 2009, when the church accepted Pastor Kwangkyu Park, a music director and youth pastor in Anchorage, as Senior Pastor. At this point, Wasilla Korean Baptist moved its services to a building provided by Fairview Loop Baptist Church.

In September 2011, Ikbo Jang was called to serve as Senior Pastor of Wasilla Korean Baptist Church, who moved to Wasilla with his wife.

In May 2016, church members went on a mission trip to Japan and Korea.

Daniel Bang began attending Wasilla Korean Baptist Church with his family in June 2018, and was ordained as music minister and English pastor the next May. Year after year, it has been the Lord's faithfulness which has allowed Wasilla Korean Baptist Church to serve Korean-speaking Christians and their families, through God's provision of leadership and generous support of neighboring churches. Despite the small population of Korean-speaking Christians in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, the Lord Jesus has lit their way with the solidarity and generosity of other

Christian congregations.

In order to walk in line with the gospel of the Lord Jesus, Wasilla Korean Baptist Church follows a vision as a Worship-Centered Community, Word-Centered Community and Missional Community. As they seek to make God's word real in their lives, they emphasize practical evangelism and disciplined worship to keep their eyes on the Savior. They also meet for one-on-one discipleship classes for our spiritual growth, as well as weekly small groups in homes, to keep sharing the gospel. Both in and out of church, every effort is made to challenge their faith.

Recently in October 2019, Wasilla Korean Baptist Church took a landmark step forward by moving to a new location; since 2000,

all services had been held in congregants' homes or in buildings shared by other churches. This changed after nineteen years, when God provided a five-acre lot of land with two



buildings. With the generosity and perseverance of the congregation, the land was cleaned and a new building and chapel were remodeled during the fall, completed just before the first snow of the year. To commemorate God's faithfulness, a three-day conference was held to give thanks to God. Wasilla Korean Baptist Church is ambitious for Jesus' glory, and hope to use this new gift to meet to proclaim God's Kingdom, and build up each other in Christ.

White Cliff Church

Ketchikan, Alaska

page 119

Date Begun: October 15, 1947

Date Constituted: September 19, 1948

Sponsoring Church: First Baptist Church, Albuquerque, NM

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

(Formerly First Baptist Church, Ketchikan)

Beginning in "The First City of Alaska"

At the request of the Alaska Baptist Convention, B.I. Carpenter (Helen) came to Ketchikan in 1947 to establish a Baptist witness in "The First City of Alaska." The Carpenters were supported jointly by the Alaska Baptist Convention and the Baptist Mission Board of New Mexico. After the Southern Baptist Convention agreed to support mission work in the Territory of Alaska, B.I. Carpenter became the first appointee of the Home Mission Board to serve in Alaska, beginning January 1, 1949.

Mission Constituted as First Baptist Church

Almost one year after the mission was begun, the First Baptist Church was constituted with 42 charter members, and B.I. Carpenter was called as pastor. After meeting for about four years in rented quarters in the downtown area, the church moved to its present location on First Avenue. The original building was dedicated on September 23, 1952.

Records show that by 1960, the church had grown to 160 members, and Pastor Dunham had initiated a daily radio program "The Bible Break" which was reaching many fishermen and loggers with the gospel. This radio program was eagerly received, and Pastor Dunham received many wonderful responses from the listeners.

Orton Ranch

Pastor Marion B. Dunham and Mrs. Dunham purchased Orton Ranch in 1960 and began developing it as a youth camp for the church the next year. Orton Ranch, a four-and-one half acre plot on the Naha River, developed by Mr. and Mrs. Orton but abandoned for years, was now salvaged for the Lord's service. An assembly building was erected and named "Ebenezer Hall" in recognition "that the Lord helped us." During the first camp in 1961, the girls lived in the machine shop and the boys bedded down in the chicken house. The rabbit hutch and the goat house were also renovated for additional space. Orton Ranch was deeded to the Alaska Baptist Convention for a brief period following Pastor, Dunham's resignation; however, the Ranch was deeded back to the First Baptist Church in 1972.

Due to a heavy snowfall and wet winter in 1973, most all of the original building collapsed under the snow load. In 1974, Brother Dunham, now retired in Oklahoma, returned with a work team and built of Orton Ranch. a new dining hall, kitchen, and living quarters for the cook. Three dormitories, a caretakers cabin and a two-story duplex were also built. Now Orton Ranch has space for 80-100 campers.

Orton Ranch is used annually for First Baptist Church events and for Tongass Baptist Youth Camp. It is also rented out to other Ketchikan churches and schools for outdoor education.

The original brick exterior has been covered with vinyl siding and some cosmetic changes made in the interior of the building. In 1986, the church purchased the house and lot adjacent to the church building for \$97,000 and this property will be paid off in 1996.

Pastors Who Have Served

Pastors who have served First Baptist Church, Ketchikan, are: B.I. Carpenter, 1947-1952; Dan P. Tyson, 1952-1954; Harry Borah,

1954-1958; Marion B. Dunham, 1959-1971; Ernest F. Lilley, 1971-1972; Judson D. Owen 1973-1986; Jeff Fitzwater, interim, 1987; Larry Hughes, 1988; Bill Brown, interim, 1989; David Carpenter, interim, 1989-1990; Robert Day, 1990-1994; Don Dillon, 1995-Present.

Missions Begun

First Baptist Church, Ketchikan, has been directly involved in starting and supporting four missions in its history. They are: Annette Island, Petersburg, North Tongass, and now Thorne Bay on Prince of Wales Island.

Annette Island was established as a "Preaching Point" in the early 1950s by Pastor B.I. Carpenter and as a mission in 1965. Dan Hill, a Ketchikan school teacher, was called to pastor the mission and served for 16 years. The Annette Mission ministry was aimed primarily at families employed by the Federal Government and the U.S. Coast Guard. When the Ketchikan International Airport opened and the Coast Guard moved to Sitka, it was deemed wise to disband the mission in the winter of 1980-81.

Petersburg Mission was begun March 3, 1968, when the first service was held by Pastor/Missionary Don Wright with 10 present. The Petersburg Mission was one of the Project 500 endeavors jointly sponsored by the Home Mission Board and First Baptist Church, Ketchikan, and was constituted as church in 1970.

North Tongass Baptist Mission was started in June 1985 in the home of Pastor Dan Hill and by September 8, 1985, the mission was officially organized and was constituted as a church in 1988.

Thorne Bay Mission is located on Prince of Wales Island and First Baptist Church assumed sponsorship of this mission in 1993. Sunday morning and evening and Tuesday evening services are held in the Thorne Bay School for this community of 650 population. Ken Blankenship (Lois) is serving as pastor of Thorne Bay Mission which has an attendance of between 20-25 each week.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Lead Pastors 1995-2021

Bob Farley, 1996-1997 (interim), then went to Prince Of Wales island as a missionary pastor until Fall 1998

Doug (Debbie) Edwards, 1997-2018

Ed Meyers, 2018-2019 (transitional)

Sid Hopkins, 2019-2020 (interim)

Alan McElroy, May 2020 – Present

Historic Details

After a history of pastors having limited tenure at First Baptist Church (FBC), they were excited to welcome a family that was both planning to stay and had a passion for the state of Alaska. In 1997 Doug, Debbie and their three boys arrived in the month of June.

A number of years into his tenure as pastor, Doug began substituting at the local high school in the Culinary Arts program as a mission opportunity. This substitution eventually led to being offered and accepting a full time position as a teacher of the department in addition to serving as full-time pastor at FBC.

During this time Doug also organized and facilitated camping retreats for the youth, children, and families of FBC. These were largely organized at Orton Ranch. The ministry of Orton Ranch, and the camps held there, have had a profound impact on many lives and have been the location of numerous conversions throughout the years.

White Cliff Church; Ketchikan (cont.)

Home groups became an area of focus for Doug. The ideology being that the church is made to exist in relationship and fellowship. The home groups became one of the vehicles by which discipleship and outreach was accomplished. They are called CARE groups standing for Creating A Relational Environment. They are designed for sharing lives, praying for one another, and the study of God's word. Currently there are four active groups.

Around this time the church voted to end regular Sunday school on Sunday mornings. It was decided that children's church would continue with the exception that every first Sunday of a month be a family worship service.

When the Edwards arrived, the church had very few youth. Doug and Debbie began to lead the youth group in the desire for their boys to be involved. They began opening their home for youth group meetings which consisted of worship, study of the Word, prayer and food. As the youth invited friends and schoolmates to the group they grew in number. In 2002, the youth group was led by John and Rebecca Brown. The youth group continued to grow and change, more youth events were added with worship and lock-in events. The church body partnered with support of food and chaperones. In 2007 the Browns moved away from Ketchikan and the youth group was led by Scott (and later Iwona) Edwards. This continued with games, fun, beach time and bonfires until 2018.

On June 11th, 2018, Doug was let go from First Baptist Church for misconduct. The church was led by the deacons until July when the church voted to call a transitional pastor.

Dr. Ed Meyers, and wife, Jan, came as transitional pastor and stayed until October, 2019. Ed was instrumental in several areas

- Rewriting the church bylaws
- Addressing Christlike forgiveness for the previous pastor and events
- Taking ownership as members for the function of the church
- Instituting readiness training to protect the children of the church
- Walked through the process of renaming FBC to White Cliff Church
- General housekeeping, streamlining, and vision casting

Ed held a membership class for the church and six active attenders became members of the church. He had the church sign up for Right Now media which has served as discipleship tool for many of the programs of the church. Ed took the church through the Transformational Church, which gave an understanding of what they were looking for when they opened up applications for a lead pastor. In addition, Dr. Ed also led people to the Lord and there were many baptisms during his tenure. Due to constraints in his personal life, Dr. Ed was unable to stay until a pastor was hired, but remained until an interim pastor was able to come.

Sid Hopkins arrived in October 2019. In December of 2019 White Cliff church (formerly FBC) voted unanimously to call Alan (Sarah) McElroy, to be Senior Pastor. In February of 2020, the church officially changed its name to White Cliff Church.

Sid Hopkins remained with the church until mid-May 2020 when the McElroy family arrived. Pastor Sid was involved in the discipleship of new believers and started a CARE group dedicated to new believers. Pastor Sid has also seen many come to Christ and baptized numerous people at the church.

Operation Christmas Child

This program was brought to the attention of FBC by Elaine Keinbaum in 1997. FBC packed boxes from the nearby church-

es and communities. It continued to grow to other churches in Ketchikan and outlying communities throughout the years. Due to health issues in 2014 Elaine passed the vision to Nadine at the church of God in Ketchikan. They have since doubled to tripled participation; indications are that this program will continue to grow.

VBS

While not a mainstay of FBC, VBS has been utilized as both a stand-alone program and as part of children's camps throughout the years. Both have been very well received and are positioned to be used in the future as well.

Directors of Missions

Ketchikan has been home to multiple directors of missions for southeast Alaska: Don (Carri) Shannon, September 2004 through February 2011; Joe (Cindy) Boney, 2010-2012

FBC Filipino Mission

Birthing out of prayer for God to move in the Filipino community, FBC waited three years for a minister to serve the group. Pastor Jesse (Wilma) Misa came to serve in late 2009. Pastor Jesse was instrumental in building the fellowship. On April 3, 2013, Pastor Jesse went home to be with Jesus.

The church then asked Rhys (Susil) Mateo to consider responding to God's call and to pastor the Filipino ministry. After seeking the Lord, they agreed, and in 2014 moved from Juneau and pastored until June 2019. They saw many additional people come, specifically young families.

When Rhys left it was decided to continue the fellowship as a ministry of WCC rather than trying to begin a separate church. Rey Naval agreed to lead the fellowship which continues with an average attendance of 24 on a weekly basis. Ray has been assisted with leading by Brandon Padang. In addition Alvarado Monticello leads a Bible study at the mall every Saturday.

Orton Ranch

Orton Ranch continues to be a ministry of White Cliff Church. Every year campers enjoy the rustic beauty of Orton Ranch and spend time worshipping in the quietness and beauty that surround them. Several churches and organizations use the facility as well including: South Tongass Alliance Church, other churches, Boy Scouts, and KIC.

Orton Ranch is a vital part of the history of White Cliff Church. Under the guidance of Ed Meyers the church has begun to move forward in creating a committee that will help manage the affairs of Orton Ranch and bring involvement from other church organizations.

Jerry Burnham was the caretaker for many years. He passed away in 2015. Kenny Shaw has been the caretaker 2016-2020. White Cliff Church is continuing to seek the Lord's guidance in how to effectively manage and use this property to shine light in the darkness.

Staff

Rhys Mateo, led the Filipino ministry until 2019. He was ordained by the church in December 2018. Ben Edwards was called in summer of 2017 to be associate pastor. Ben was responsible to plan worship, outreach, and CARE groups. Ben was ordained by the church in December 2018.

Deacons

Harry Gibson, 2000 - 2018 (now emeritus); Dennis Spurgeon, 2000 - current; Guy Mickel, 2018 - current; Scott Edwards, 2018 - current; Caleb Mickel, 2018 - 2019; John Brown, 2018 - current; Chris Grooms, 2018 -2019

Whittier Christian Community Church

Whittier, Alaska

page 121

Date Begun: 1988

Date Constituted: March 31, 1996

Sponsoring Church: Calvary Baptist Church, Anchorage

QUOTED FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Preaching Point

A Baptist ministry was begun in Whittier in 1988 as a “Preaching Point” by Elmer Sizemore, Director of Missions for Tustumena Association. Lori Simonds located the Kittywake Community Room as a meeting place. With only a pulpit, a piano and some hymnals, the ministry began. Brother Sizemore arrived on the first train in on Sunday morning after driving from Kenai to Portage and riding the train to Whittier. Some weeks it was too treacherous for Pastor Sizemore to make it so he brought some tapes to be used in the service. He also provided books for sermon ideas which could be presented by the lay people attending. Often the congregation shared testimonies of how God was working in lives.

Whittier Baptist Chapel

In 1989, Pastor Sizemore led the group to open a checking account with National Bank of Alaska for Whittier Baptist Chapel. Records were kept of tithes and offerings as well as the contributions through State, Home and Foreign Mission Offerings. Attendance was very small.

Whittier Baptist Chapel and Seamans Ministry

Beginning in 1989, the Whittier Chapel shared services with the newly established Seamans Ministry led by Jeannette and Joe Seale from Anchorage. With the combined group, as many as 24 people attended Sunday Services, which were translated into Spanish by a volunteer. Later the cruise ships began going to Seward so the Seamans Center moved to Seward in 1993.

When Elmer Sizemore announced his retirement, he introduced Mike Procter, Director of Missions for Chugach Association, to the Whittier Mission. Mike helped to get Calvary Baptist Church, Anchorage to become the sponsoring church for the Whittier Chapel in June 1993.

Whittier Baptist Mission

After months of praying for a pastor, on April 14, 1993, Rev. Randall Burnham, wife, Debbie, and daughter, Courtney, arrived from Dayton, Tennessee. In October the mission purchased a three-bedroom condominium #713 for a parsonage. This space, once renovated, provided living quarters and office space for the pastor and mission. Brother Burnham was skilled in construction and electrical work and was able to use these skills in renovating the condominium.

Pastor Burnham's first community ministry was to conduct funerals for two elderly people. In December of 1994, the mission had its first Christmas program with the Nativity and Christmas music provided by the little choir. The community response was rewarding and the Baptist Mission was now recognized by the people of Whittier.

The mission moved to a new location on the 15th floor of the Begich Towers in the Home Owners Lounge. Two discipleship courses “Wise Counsel” and “Experiencing God,” were offered and proved to be a blessing. The name was changed to Whittier Baptist Mission to reflect stability in the community. Rev. Randall Burnham resigned to return to school.

Rev. William Phillips was called as interim pastor on June 15, 1995. A successful Vacation Bible School was held in the summer as well as a ministry to the migrant cannery workers

On August 22, 1995, Rev. Sirlin R. Niver and his wife, Sophie, arrived in Whittier as bi-vocational pastor. There are about 40 children and youth to whom the mission is seeking to minister at present. There are no other church services held in Whittier. The Whittier Baptist Mission seeks to share the gospel with the fishermen, the seamen and the tourists who visit.

On March 31, 1996, the Whittier Baptist Church was constituted and called Sirlin Niver as pastor.

UPDATE OF CHURCH HISTORY TO 2021

Pastors who have Served

Woody Woodruff, 2002-2005

James Cooper, 2006-2008,

Dawson Lindblom, interim, 2009-2010

Kevin Jones, 2011-2013

Brian Hicks, 2013-2019

Williwaw Church

Anchorage, Alaska

Date Begun: 2012

Date Constituted: August 9, 2019

Sponsoring Church: Calvary Baptist Church, Anchorage

CHURCH HISTORY BEGINNINGS TO 2021

Williwaw Church began as a small Bible study in a local park during the summer of 2012 and has grown into a young church that meets on the eastside of Anchorage. In March of 2019, they became a NAMB church plant. The core group is comprised mainly of teens and young adults who have grown up around the summer park ministry in the Williwaw Park neighborhood. Using the house church model, they gather in the pastor's home each week to discuss the Word of God and to share a meal. The goal is not to have a traditional church building; instead, they hope to see the church grow into a multiplying house-church network that stretches as far as God deems fit. Their desire is to cultivate ministry centered hearts in the current core group and to equip them with the skills needed to lead Bible studies in their own homes as they reach people for Christ.

Churches Listed in the Fiftieth Anniversary Book that are no longer in existence

Aquillaq Mission, Ambler
Chalkyitsik Mission
Community Baptist Mission, Nome
Cottonwood Shores Baptist Church, Wasilla
Douglas Island Baptist Fellowship, Douglas
Faith Baptist Church, Anchorage
Faith Baptist Church, Homer
First Baptist Church of Copper Valley, Glennallen
Fort Yukon Mission
Goldstream Valley Baptist Church, Fairbanks
Grace Chapel, Girdwood
Mountain View Baptist Church, Copper Center
North Star Baptist Church, Anderson
Raspberry Road Baptist Church
 Primera Iglesia Bautista, Anchorage
 Hispanic Bible Fellowship, Anchorage
 International Friendship Center, Anchorage
 Church of All Nations, Anchorage
 Korean Baptist Mission, Anchorage
Selawik Mission, Selawik
Seward Mission, Seward
Skagway Baptist Fellowship, Skagway
South Anchorage Baptist Church, Anchorage
Sutton Baptist Church, Sutton
Tok Baptist Mission, Tok
Venetie Mission

Churches that have come into existence since the Fiftieth Anniversary Book

| | |
|---|---|
| Agape Fellowship, Palmer | New Birth Christian Church, Fairbanks |
| Alaska Iu-Mienh First Baptist Church, Anchorage | New Grace Christian Church, Anchorage |
| Christ Community Church, Anchorage | New Hope Fellowship, Haines |
| Cliffside Community Chapel, Anchorage | North Bear Street Baptist Church, Wasilla |
| Cottonwood Creek Cowboy Church, Wasilla | Northern Lights Missions, Tok |
| CrossCountry Church, Wasilla | Pathway Discipleship Church, Nome |
| Dillingham Bible Fellowship, Dillingham | Pioneer Baptist Church of Wasilla |
| Eagle River Korean Baptist Church, Eagle River | Rescate Church, Juneau |
| Faith Recovery Fellowship, Wasilla | River in the Desert Community Church, Anchorage |
| Filipino Bible Church, Anchorage | Roots Family Church, Soldotna |
| First Hmong Baptist Church, Anchorage | Sabbath Peace Fellowship, Chugiak |
| Frontier Baptist Church, Fairbanks | Sand Lake Fellowship, Anchorage |
| Frontier Fellowship, Anchorage | Set Free Church, Anchorage |
| Gilead Ministries, Anchorage | Set Free Church, Kenai |
| Hoonah Baptist Mission, Hoonah | Settler's Bay Community Church, Wasilla |
| Journey Church, Wasilla | Transitional Ministries, Anchorage |
| Juneau Korean Church, Juneau | True North Church, Anchorage |
| Ketchikan Filipino Baptist Mission, Ketchikan | True North Church, Girdwood |
| Korean New Central Baptist Church, Anchorage | Unalaska Reformed Church, Unalaska |
| Malamalama Fou (New Light) Church, Whittier | Wasilla Korean Baptist Church, Wasilla |
| Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Fairbanks | Williwaw Church, Anchorage |



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