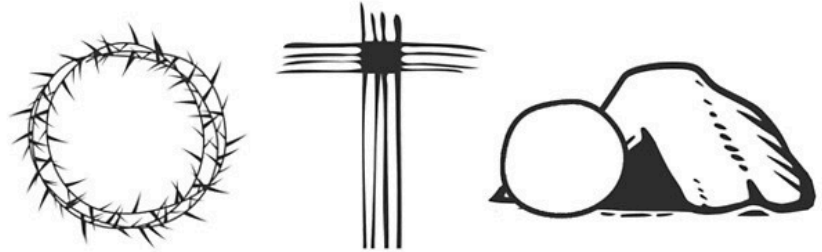


ALASKA BAPTIST RESOURCE NETWORK MILEPOST



IN THIS ISSUE:

- April Greetings
- Article by Executive Director
- Article by Director of Evangelism and Church Development
- Scholarship info Alaska Baptist Foundation
- Financial report
- Opportunities and information



a lot can happen in **THREE DAYS**

As we step into April, we are reminded of the hope, renewal, and victory we have in Christ. Easter is a celebration of the greatest gift ever given—the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ! Because He lives, we have new life, eternal hope, and a mission to share His love with others.

This season, let's reflect on the power of the cross, the joy of the empty tomb, and the calling to go and make disciples. May our churches be filled with the Good News and our communities be touched by His grace.

Let's continue to pray for one another, for the lost in our state, and for the Gospel to reach every corner of Alaska!

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!



Randy Covington, Executive Director Reflections of an Alaskan Baptist- Montana Creek Baptist Church

1966 – It was a terrific year! The year the Covington family moved to a homestead on the Parks Highway near Kashwitna. I was almost 11 years old and looking forward to an adventure in the Alaskan bush. Little did I know at that time that I would be leaving a Southern Baptist church to attend a non-denominational community church. It was the only church within 15 miles of our homestead. The beauty of a community church in a homesteading community is the strong sense of connection. You get to know most of the homesteaders within a 20-mile radius of the church. The children knew each other because they went to the same church and school, fostering a deep sense of community.

When my parents told us that we would leave the community church to help start a new Southern Baptist mission at Montana Creek, I was not too excited. It meant that I would not get to see my classmates on Sunday mornings at church. Even worse was that the other children in my Sunday School class were my brothers. Yuck! In fact, the only other family in the church besides the Covington was the mission pastor James Akin and his wife, Fern, who lived in Palmer and drove to Montana Creek every Sunday. They didn't even live in our homesteading community. I knew this wasn't going to be any fun.

That first summer at the mission, we offered Vacation Bible School to draw other families with children to get acquainted with the Montana Creek mission. Pastor Akin found a large green military tent that could comfortably accommodate 30 children if it rained. The tent was set up in a gravel pit before VBS began, and it rained every day that week. We spent the entire time in the green tent packed in with about 15 other kids from the community. But the VBS was successful, and we saw other children and their parents start coming regularly to the mission on Sunday mornings. This was the beginning of a beautiful journey, witnessing the growth of our church and the community it served.

Montana Creek Baptist Mission remained in mission status for 35 years before constituting as a church. Through the years of serving at First Baptist in Wasilla, I saw pastors come and go at Montana Creek but never stay very long. It was a hard place to live and difficult to find work for bi-vocational pastors.

Upon our return from the mission field in south Europe to step into this current role, I was so excited to drive the Parks Highway, which was now paved, passing the old homestead site and drive into the parking lot of Montana Creek Baptist Church. It is strategically located near the cutoff to the Talkeetna spur highway. The flood of pleasant memories of days gone by and scores of people I have known come through this church that I saw planted with my eyes was so refreshing. I am deeply thankful for the many invitations I have had over these past 9 years to drive that familiar road again and preach to a thriving Montana Creek Baptist Church congregation. Oh Lord, let this faithful country church always be a lighthouse to the community of Talkeetna, Alaska, and may we always appreciate its role in our lives.

MILEPOST

April 2025



Jimmy Stewart Director of Evangelism and Church Development

Magnified! Discovering the Bigness of God in the smallest of things. Psalm 34:3 "O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together." (KJV)
Made to magnify God.

What a beautiful and worthy proclamation. This is the theme, motto and scripture of this year's Vacation Bible School. In these latter years, Lifeway has produced a backyard bible club that uses the same theme, motto and bible teaching for churches not ready or wanting to conduct a full school. Some churches do both. They may have a full school on their campus and choose to use the Backyard version to take the Gospel to neighborhoods and other parts of their community. Is your church conducting a VBS this year? In the year 2023, 38 Alaskan churches reported conducting a VBS with a total of 2123 children attending. In our state the ACP of 2023 reported average weekly in person worship attendance of 5012. That means close to a little less than half of our churches came to close to seeing half of the average weekly all age worship attendance in attendance. These clubs gave teachers, leaders, pastors and workers the extended time to interact and share the love of Jesus with students and their parents. What a great job these churches did. How impactful is this time spent with the community.

Across the nation an average year VBS for all the SBC looks like this:

2,404,059 PEOPLE ENROLLED IN VBS

21,316 CHURCHES REPORTING VBS

65,301 SALVATION DECISIONS

\$1,012,010 GIVEN TO MISSIONS DURING VBS

160,926 PROSPECTS DISCOVERED

855 DECISIONS FOR VOCATIONAL MINISTRY



The numbers and impact of VBS speaks for itself. I love being around VBS workers. They are committed, energetic, and live life with a VBS DNA in their being. They love children, parents and hard work for the Gospel. They have a vision and a passion for the opportunity VBS affords them. They work tirelessly and effectively to teach, decorate, move in motions to VBS music (not dance, we are Baptist), and joyously serve for the cause. Some people may even think they are fanatics. Praise God, my prayer is that more fanatics will join the current workers and those committed to share the love of Christ through such a powerful tool like VBS.

We will be conducting VBS training clinics in April. If you are not planning on conducting a school, I hope you might consider sending some workers to a clinic to hear about VBS. If you are planning on doing VBS don't let your workers miss out on the joyful, exciting, energetic, training event we conduct. It will supercharge your workers to see the other churches involved. In fact, it is a great opportunity for churches to work together sharing materials and decorations. We help churches coordinate the efforts to help each other. Look in this newsletter to find dates for the clinic and it should be on our website, as well. Hope to see you at a clinic.

MILEPOST

April 2025



Sponsorship Opportunities For

Recovery Made New TV And Faith Renewed Radio

The TV Program "Recovery Made New" is designed to reach the community through the Gospel of Christ by sharing the fact that recovery through Jesus Christ life giving grace can bring about true change and healing for the glory of God. The TV Program is 30 Minutes and is shown on KCFT Channel 35 in Anchorage and Mat-Su, also on KJNP Fairbanks and North Pole. Each weekly program will air 3 times on each channel. Broadcast times not yet scheduled. The Radio Program "Faith Renewed" is reaching 80% of the State of Alaska with the teaching of the Word of God to encourage spiritual growth.

This sponsorship opportunity will help support an outreach that shares the testimonies of real people who have been saved from a life of addiction and incarceration. The evidence of true transformation is demonstrated by a "NEW LIFE" lived without addiction. Each episode features personal accounts of faith, deliverance and newfound purpose.

For more information go to FaithRecoveryFellowship.org/Radio.TV



Does your church have news or events to share?

We'd love to hear from you! If your church has exciting updates, events, or stories to share, please send photos and detailed information to Heather at heather@alaskabrn.com. Let's celebrate and spread the word about what God is doing in your community!



Hosting Opportunity for IMB Missionaries

This summer, three IMB missionary couples will be stateside and are in need of housing and transportation. If you or your church are interested in assisting with these needs, please contact Jae McKee at jae@alaskabrn.com for more details. Thank you for supporting those who have dedicated their lives to spreading the Gospel!

MILEPOST

April 2025

Scholarships through the Alaska Baptist Foundation

Fuhr Scholarship The final deadline for all scholarship materials is April 30, 2025

Fuhr Scholarship Alaska Baptist Foundation (abf.foundation)

- Undergraduate university or trade college students
- Two-year Alaska residency required Prior to Applying
- Active membership in the participating Southern Baptist Church affiliated with the ABRN.
- Financial Needs-based scholarship
- Maximum 10 scholarships
- Maximum (\$2,000 for the year)

Parker Scholarship The final deadline for all scholarship materials is April 30, 2025

Parker Scholarship Alaska Baptist Foundation (abf.foundation)

- Graduate and Postgraduate Ministry Degree Program
- One-year Alaska residency required prior to applying.
- Active membership in a participating Southern Baptist Church affiliated with the ABRN.
- Southern Baptist Endorsed Seminaries (other institution subject to pre-approval)
- Preference Given to Pastoral Ministry
- Preference given to returning students over a four-year program.
- General Scholarship Limit 5

Reynolds Scholarship:

- For Seminary Students
- For men who have surrendered to preach after the age of 25 or any applicant man or woman pursuing ministry work after the age of 25
- The amount depends on funds available, typically only enough for one individual.
- Contact The Alaska Baptist Foundation for more information and/or receive an application.
- No specific due date established awarded on a first-come first-served basis upon review and approval of the applicant and their submitted application materials.



MILEPOST

April 2025



WMMU
of Alaska

Women on Mission Celebration

April 3-5, 2025

at

First Baptist Church Anchorage
1100 W. 10th Ave.

Thursday Evening, April 3, 2025, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Registration at 6:00 p.m. and Childcare 6:30 p.m. (Birth – K Only)

Friday Morning, April 4, 2025, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Registration at 8:00 a.m. and Childcare at 8:30 a.m.

Friday Evening, April 4, 2025, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Registration at 6:00 p.m. and Childcare at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday Morning April 5, 2025, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Registration at 8:00 a.m. and Childcare at 8:30 a.m.

Coming Soon Save the Dates



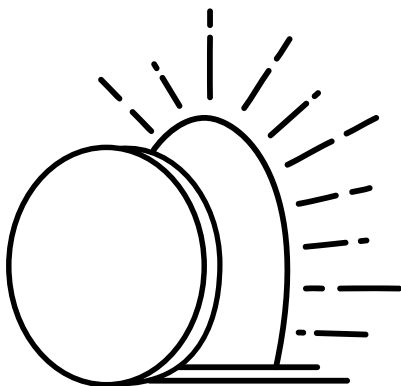
Register
Now



Lodging Available: Clarion Suites

www.wmu.com

www.alaskabrnr.com



MILEPOST

April 2025



Coming Soon
Save the Dates

April 14
Fairview Loop Baptist Church

April 15
First Baptist Church Anchorage

Schedule for both events are as followed:

5:30pm Snacks and decorations viewing

6:00pm Electives

Zoom in on volunteers and celebrating them – Rachel Janneck

Guiding behavior – Courtney Teeple

Leading Children to Christ – Jimmy Stewart

Decorations W/O Breaking the Bank - Karla Hicks

Safe & Secure building a foundation of trust at VBS – Lorie Pierce

6:40pm Base Conferences;

Preschool – Courtney Teeple

Children – 1-6 – Rachel Janneck

Directors/Pastors – Lorie Pierce

Crafts – Karla Hicks

Music – TBA

7:35pm Worship Rally and Door Prizes

8:30pm Dismiss

For more information contact Jimmy Stewart
jimmy@alaskabrnr.com

MILEPOST

April 2025

You are Invited

Appreciation & Reception



Sunday
18 May, 2025



11:00 am

In recognition of
22+ years of
leadership in
Alaska

Jimmy Stewart

ABRN - Director of Evangelism &
Church Development



907-279-8481



FirstBaptistAnchorage@gmail.com



First Baptist Church of Anchorage- 1100 West 10th Ave

Coming Soon Save the Dates



LAVERNE GRIFFIN

CAMP

SUMMER 2025!

www.lavernegriffincamp.org

Trailblazer Camp- June 1st – 5th, 2025 (Sun – Thur)

AK Native Youth co-ed entering grades 7th-12th

\$250 includes camp t-shirt if registered before May 18th

Voyager Camp- June 8th – 12th, 2025 (Sun – Thurs)

Co-ed Kid grades 4th, 5th, 6th

\$250 includes camp t-shirt if registered before May 25th

Pathfinder Camp- June 15th – 19th, 2025 (Sun – Thurs)

Co-ed Youth grades 7th-12th

\$250 includes camp t-shirt if registered before June 1st

JAM Camp (Jesus, Arts, & Music) – June 22nd – 26th, 2025 (Sun – Thurs)

Co-ed entering grades 5th-12th

\$250 includes camp t-shirt if registered before June 8th

MILEPOST

April 2025

January-February 2025 Gifts from ABRN Churches

| <u>Organization</u> | <u>CP</u> | <u>SMO</u> | <u>AA</u> | <u>LM</u> | <u>WH</u> | <u>DR</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Salcha Baptist Church | \$425.50 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$425.50 |
| Sand Point Baptist Chapel | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Set Free Church - Kenai | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Settler's Bay Community Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Shannon Park Baptist Church | \$100.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,216.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,316.00 |
| Shungnak Baptist Mission | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Solid Rock Baptist Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| St. John Baptist Church | \$1,186.10 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$50.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,236.10 |
| Sunset Hills Baptist Church | \$2,926.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$4,230.75 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$7,156.75 |
| Tenakee Springs Community Church | \$850.50 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,000.00 | \$42,850.50 |
| Tetlin Community Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| The Crossing @ Birchwood | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Togiak Baptist Mission | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Transitional Ministries | \$10.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$10.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$20.00 |
| True North Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| True North Church Girdwood | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| UBC - Chinese Fellowship | \$279.00 | \$0.00 | \$120.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$399.00 |
| Unalaska Reformed Church | \$1,571.71 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,571.71 |
| University Baptist Church-Anchorage | \$452.22 | \$461.43 | \$0.00 | \$141.80 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,055.45 |
| University Baptist Church -Fairbanks | \$543.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,250.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,793.00 |
| Valley View Baptist Church | \$1,701.09 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,701.09 |
| Wasilla Korean Baptist Church | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$575.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$775.00 |
| White Cliff Church | \$2,197.87 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,197.87 |
| Whittier Christian Community Church | \$30.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$30.00 |
| <u>Year to date:</u> | <u>\$94,848.40</u> | <u>\$17,783.23</u> | <u>\$623.84</u> | <u>\$73,372.84</u> | <u>\$0.00</u> | <u>\$2,000.00</u> | <u>\$188,628.31</u> |

| | <u>4Q 2024</u> | <u>1Q2025</u> | <u>2Q2025</u> | <u>3Q2025</u> | <u>4Q2025</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 2000 Club Received through 02/28/2025 | \$50.00 | \$3,433.08 | \$835.07 | \$835.06 | \$835.06 | <u>\$5,988.27</u> |

Legend:

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

February 2025 Gifts from ABRN Churches

Alaska Baptist Resource Network

| | <u>2025</u> | | <u>2024</u> | |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| <u>February</u> | | | | |
| CP Receipts | \$40,928.62 | | \$44,605.69 | |
| CP Goal | \$62,176.75 | | \$70,156.33 | |
| Variance | \$(21,248.13) | -34.17% | \$(25,550.64) | -36.42% |
| <u>Year-to-Date</u> | | | | |
| CP Receipts | \$94,848.40 | | \$110,898.24 | |
| CP Goal | \$124,353.50 | | \$140,312.66 | |
| Variance | \$(29,505.10) | -23.72% | \$(29,414.42) | -20.96% |

February 2025 CP Dollars that stayed in Alaska for the Lord's Work:

\$32,742.90



April

Resurrection Hope

☐ Day 1: John 11:25-26
☐ Day 2: 1 Cor 15:20-22
☐ Day 3: Romans 6:4-5
☐ Day 4: John 5:24-25
☐ Day 5: 1 Peter 1:3-4
☐ Day 6: 1 Thess 4:13-14
☐ Day 7: Romans 8:11
☐ Day 8: Luke 24:5-7
☐ Day 9: Acts 2:24
☐ Day 10: 1 Cor 6:14
☐ Day 11: Philippians 3:10-11
☐ Day 12: Acts 4:33
☐ Day 13: 1 Cor 15:42-44
☐ Day 14: Romans 8:34
☐ Day 15: Acts 17:31

☐ Day 16: 1 Peter 3:21-22
☐ Day 17: Colossians 3:1-2
☐ Day 18: John 20:8-9
☐ Day 19: Acts 24:15
☐ Day 20: 2 Timothy 2:8
☐ Day 21: Romans 4:24-25
☐ Day 22: 1 Cor 15:54-57
☐ Day 23: Philippians 3:20-21
☐ Day 24: John 6:40
☐ Day 25: Luke 24:46-48
☐ Day 26: Acts 26:22-23
☐ Day 27: 1 Cor 15:12-14
☐ Day 28: Romans 6:8-11
☐ Day 29: 1 Thess 4:16-17
☐ Day 30: Revelation 1:17-18

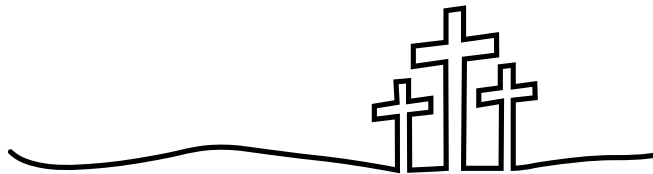


Bible Study Printables

Upcoming Events

April 2025

- April 3-5 Women on Mission Celebration
- April 14 VBS Training Fairview Loop Baptist Church Wasilla
- April 15 VBS Training First Baptist Church Anchorage
- April 17 Maundy Thursday
- April 18 Good Friday
- April 20 Easter Sunday
- April 21 ABRN and ABF offices closed
- April 24-26 Minister and Spouse Retreat
- March 16 John 3:16 Emphasis



Please Pray for our Pastorless Churches

Aquillaq Baptist Mission, Ambler
Chinese Fellowship, Fairbanks
Montana Creek Baptist Church, Talkeetna
Moose Pass Community Church
Riverside Chapel, King Salmon
Shungnak Baptist Mission
Sunset Hills Baptist Church, Anchorage
True North Church, Girdwood

MILEPOST

April 2025



JOB VACANCY
AVAILABLE POSITIONS

- Cottage Supervisor ✓
- Food Manager ✓
- Residential Floor Staff ✓

APPLY NOW
907-349-2222
s.cambridge@bbhalaska.org

Apply now to join our team and take the next step in your career!



Friendship Baptist Mission

Fairbanks, Alaska is looking for an associate/youth pastor.

Contact: Pastor David Joseph 907-347-4746.

Email resumes to alaskans34@gmail.com or Friendshipbaptistmissionak@gmail.com



CALL TODAY

OUT PATIENT APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
907-349-2222
Ages 4 and up



Montana Creek Baptist Church

Talkeetna, Alaska is seeking a

bi-vocational pastor. Please send

resumes to Luke Fore at

MCBCpastorcommittee@gmail.com.

2000 CLUB 2025

SECOND QUARTER APR-JUN 2025

First Baptist Church Petersburg will be utilizing 2000 Club funds for renovations and repairs to enhance their church parsonage.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!