

# Community of Christ

## Alaskan Golden Nugget News

July 2004

### Thoughts to Consider...

by Willa Frey

Smoke filled the valley causing the use of face masks for those hardy souls venturing to go outside. Many of us resented it – it is summer and a beautiful time to be outside. Nothing could be seen except for a very short distance. The cause – wildfires raging around us. Over a million acres are on fire. The fire fighters worked hard and long to save homes, cabins and towns from its hungry appetite. Many families had to evacuate their homes, taking what they felt was too valuable to leave behind and could be loaded into their vehicle within a half hour- or less. The decision – what is important? What can I leave behind and easily replace later? Choices... decisions...

Fortunately, I didn't have to make any, only stay inside and grumble along with the others.

But it does give food for reflection. What if I had had to evacuate – what are the important things? What would my choices be? What would yours be?

Daily we are faced with making choices and decisions that will affect the rest of our lives if we but realized it. Do we give them serious consideration or just choose blindly on the spur of the moment? What are our goals in life? What is really important?

Some people were making choices based on losing their homes. My choices were based on whether to wear a face mask or not. True, not wearing one could result in health problems later so it was important. All our choices are important and need to be made with prayer and serious examination. These are thoughts to consider.

### Alaska Reunion

2004

The Reunion held at the Laverne Griffin Camp was a rich, fulfilling experience for those who attended. It was small but richly blessed by the Holy Spirit. It's always so good to visit with old friends and to make new ones especially in such an environment. This campground is on a small lake in a quiet area and operated by a crew of friendly, helpful people. Quiet areas and walks were available for those wishing to be alone to worship in addition to the available services.

Brad Shumate was the visiting guest minister and brought some rich resources and ideas in the class he taught on small group ministry. It was positive and uplifting. I hope that next year many more of you will decide to make this a part of your summer. It is too good to miss! (See pictures – page 4)

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## Anchorage News...

Submitted by Lou Gilmore

Chris Steinel and Kate Anderson graduated from Graceland last month and came to Alaska soon after. They were joined in marriage on June 20<sup>th</sup> at the Alaska Gardens Bed and Breakfast. Laura Eastham officiated. It was a beautiful outdoor wedding with many friends and relatives attending. They spent their honeymoon in Hawaii. They are now settled in Anchorage and Chris is working at the Alaska Native Hospital. Sara Anderson and Lou Gilmore gave a Bridal Shower at Lou's home on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Twenty of her friends and relatives attended. Kate's Aunt Diana Lowrey came to Alaska for the wedding. Judy and Sara Anderson spent the following week showing Diana Alaska.

The Alaska Reunion was held at the Laverne Griffin Recreation Camp a few miles north of Wasilla from June 20-25. Brad Shumate was the Guest Minister. Other guests were Jim and Pat Kurtz from Council Bluffs, Iowa. Don Welch and daughter, Jane, (from Phoenix, AZ) were guests for the first two days. They had traveled to Alaska for Chris and Kate's wedding.

Al & Willa Frey represented Fairbanks. Ryan and Connie Sue Rowley, Austin Bauer and Troy Phillips were Junior Trainees for the Campfire Services. All in all it was a wonderful week and God's Spirit was present.

Leroy and Elnora Wands traveled to Denver to spend time with relatives and celebrate Leroy's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. They return on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Leroy has since had an operation on his forearm. Due to cancer weakening the bone he broke his arm and had to have a plate inserted. They are now exploring a number of treatments for the cancer.

Bob Merrill had a close call with death last week. He was rotatilling his garden in the evening when a thunder storm came up. Lightning struck and went underground about 100 feet and came up the roto tiller and struck his ring finger. Connie was watching a show about Tornados. It took her awhile to realize the noise she heard wasn't the tornado on TV but a real noise from the thunder and lightning. She

got to the door as Bob approached. His finger was snow white – Connie says as if it were dead. Fortunately, that was Bob's only injury. His finger regained it's color and he is alright.

Lou Gilmore flew to Boise, Idaho then drove on to Hagerman, Idaho for Memorial Day since Mike (Gilmore) is buried there. Merilou Hartwig, Lou's daughter, came from Lamoni, Iowa. They spent time with Ron Gilmore, Lou's son. They also visited many friends and relatives and attended Lou's 67<sup>th</sup> High School reunion.

Jacob Merrill is preparing to attend SPEC. He will fly to Seattle and fly with other youth to journey on to Graceland.

Richard and Dana Miller and children from Independence, MO are visiting Bill and Laura Eastham for a week. Richard is Laura's brother. They are busy sightseeing Alaska and will fly back to Missouri on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

Lou Gilmore's son, Ron and his former wife, Margaret Eilers, came to Alaska for their 40<sup>th</sup> High School Reunion. They had a pleasant visit with relatives and old friends. They stayed from June 16<sup>th</sup> –21<sup>st</sup>. Thanks, Lou!

Additional Information about Lou Gilmore - She is still in need of our prayers. She has good days and bad days. Overall she feels her neck problem is improving – thanks to all the prayers and the Lord's Blessing. The doctor says she has Cervical Spinal Stenosis. It isn't related to the cancer. She will be taking the C-Scan on the 19<sup>th</sup> and going to the doctor for the results on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Then she will know how much the cancer has grown. Hopefully, it hasn't. She says thanks for all the prayers and feels she wouldn't be here if it hadn't been for all the concerns. THANKS! Keep her in your prayers.

ADDITIONAL NEWS from Flo Pearson –

Amanda Williams and Bill Jamison's wedding will be on July 31<sup>st</sup>. I'm sure that Jim and Bonnie Williams (parents of Amanda) are in a flurry these days preparing for this important event! Congratulations and good luck to all of you. Keep Charlie Marsh in your prayers. He is in need of them.

## Delta Jct News...

Submitted by Cheryl Cooper

Hi Folks! Now that the smoke from the 5 fires around us has cleared and we can see the blue sky again after a week, life is much better!

Our garden and greenhouse are producing well. We had the first salad of lettuce, spinach, cucumber, zucchini and tomato and it was great! Gary's prize winning dahlias are gorgeous and his lawn is very green.

Our classes we taught in Juneau and Fairbanks went well and now we are enjoying the summer with some traveling, house projects and lots of BBQ's with friends in Delta!

Love, Cheryl

## Fairbanks News...

Submitted by Willa Frey

Lesla Meath and Willa Frey sponsored a Youth Activity at Pioneer Park including volleyball and other games, crafts and a weiner roast. There were 12 present and all enjoyed this time together. More events are being planned for the summer.

The big wide grin on Scott Chaddon Jr.'s face is due to receiving his Drivers' Learner's Permit. Congratulations, Scott. Scott Chaddon Sr. has been touring Canada with his girlfriend, Barbara. In his absence, Michelle Chaddon has been attending church with the kids each Sunday. We've enjoyed seeing her cheerful, welcoming smile.

Kendall Reece-Reagan Swart was welcomed on June 6<sup>th</sup> by parents, Marc and Jackie Swart. She weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces. and was 19 inches long says Grandma Cheryl Swart proudly! Welcome, Kendall!

Jamey Young & family were recently on vacation in the Dominican Republic. They currently live in Juneau. Any news for us, Jamey?

Breanne Meath went on a trip to Denali with the girl scouts in June.

Sandy Besser was recently elected President of her local Employee Association. She just returned from a conference in California related to the new position. In the "small world" category, the conference was held at Asilomar Conference grounds where mom (Willa) attended Reunion as a young woman. It is good to have her back.

Jennifer and Brodie Ford and daughters Sara

and Caitlyn are expecting to be in Wasilla for their next duty station. Brodie will be recruiting for the Army. It will be great having them so close – much closer than Kentucky, says Grandma Sandy Besser (and Great Grandparents – Al & Willa Frey). They hope to move in late August.

Summer sports have kept our kids busy – baseball, hockey, tennis, etc. The Children's Honor Choirs from all over the state are meeting in Fairbanks as we speak. A concert will be held this weekend. Lesla and Breanne Meath are involved in these activities.

Al and Willa Frey attended the Alaska Reunion at Wasilla. They really enjoyed the fellowship!

Al Frey has been diagnosed with another herniated disc and will be returning to Colorado for more surgery July 20. He has also been diagnosed with the beginnings of myeloma, cancer of the bone. Since it's not affecting his back at this time, they've given him the go ahead for the surgery. They haven't decided on a treatment plan at this time. Please, keep him in your prayers!

A Congregational Retreat is being planned for Aug. 6-8<sup>th</sup>. It is a "Get Away With Christ" and will be held here in Fairbanks.

We have enjoyed having Katie Philbrick with us from Columbia, Missouri. She is an intern with the USDA Soil Conservation Dept. and is busy collecting soil samples and staying with Bonnie Vargason.

## Wasilla News...

Melody Oines and Richard McManus were married June 13. It was a beautiful ceremony. The newlyweds are residing in Wasilla.

Deena and Dave Oines just returned from a halibut fishing trip to Homer. Deena reported five straight days of sunshine – which is almost unheard of for visitors.

Kathy Bowman recently finished her degree and is happy to be out of school at last.

Britt and Wendy Graham are currently on vacation in the states – doing a little traveling.

## Submitted by Deena Oines

Tadd and Janet Graham are still on the road looking for the perfect place. They were most recently in Idaho Falls and have job prospects in both Colorado and California.

Buddy Graham is to be stationed at Fort Polk close to cousin Kerensa. Kerensa's husband Charles has been deployed to Iraq. Our prayers are with him.

Several members of the valley group were able to attend the Alaska Reunion this year.



## Alaska Reunion 2004

At our most recent congregational picnic, we had some amazing baked beans. Breanne suggested that we should include some recipes in the GNN, so here's the first. If you have something you'd like to share, please send it to Willa Frey for inclusion in a future newsletter.

### Jonah Bolt's Bakes Beans

Large can of Pork & Beans  
 8 oz can of Red Kidney Beans  
 8 oz can of White Beans  
 1 – 2 lbs of ground beef  
 1 pkg of bacon  
 1 small can of mushrooms  
 Liquid Smoke (Hickory flavored is best)  
 Brown Sugar  
 Small amount of molasses  
 Other spices as desired

### Nancy Scott's Jalapeno Cheese Wraps

1 pint sour cream  
 8 oz cream cheese  
 equal parts of: chopped jalapeno peppers  
 tops of green onions chopped  
 juice of one lime

Mix well, spread on soft tortillas and roll. Chill overnight, slice and serve with picante sauce.

## 10 Minute News...

cofchrist.org

**The 2004 Peace Colloquy** will be held November 5-7 at the Temple. Sponsored by the First Presidency, the theme is All in God's Image: Ethnicity, Religion, Power, and Privilege. An expanded track for priesthood training with Temple School and continuing education credit will be offered. See August and September Heralds for details about keynote speakers and 35 workshops. Details are available in a recent mailing to pastors, by contacting (816) 521-3077 or [confreg@CofChrist.org](mailto:confreg@CofChrist.org), or visit [www.CofChrist.org/peacecolloquy](http://www.CofChrist.org/peacecolloquy). Early-bird registration is available through October 8--save \$10.

**Community of Christ Health Ministries Association** and The Groves will sponsor the second annual Health and Spirituality Workshop at the Temple, September 17-18. Keynote speakers will be Ken Robinson, First Presidency, and Steve Jeffers, author of several books on grief. Eleven breakout sessions will cover topics for chaplains, health professionals, priesthood, caregivers, and friendly visitors. Contact Paula Rummel at ext. 2262 or [prummel@CofChrist.org](mailto:prummel@CofChrist.org) for more information and to register.

**Register for Congregational Leaders Workshop (CLW)** before July 15 for \$100. With the theme Called to Learn, CLW will be held at Graceland University, Lamoni, Iowa, August 16. Enjoy more than 40 class options, MEADS, pre-ordination education, and fellowship every evening. July 16 and after, registration is \$120. For more information contact Poul Wilson, Discipleship Ministries, at ext. 1358, fax (816) 521-3083, or [kpwilson@CofChrist.org](mailto:kpwilson@CofChrist.org).

**Call for entries: December Herald cover art.** Entries from children are invited to be submitted for possible inclusion as the *Herald* cover and inside art. These entries should be children's depictions of the nativity scene. All submitted works must be original 8.5" wide and 11" high. Send postal submissions to *Herald*, P.O. Box 390, Independence, MO 64051, or e-mail [jhannah@CofChrist.org](mailto:jhannah@CofChrist.org). All submissions with return addresses will be returned following publication of the December *Herald*. Submissions must be received or postmarked by September 30.

**Vibrant Witness: Who, Me?** is a new personal witnessing training resource designed to assist members in discovering ways to develop, recognize, and share witness through personal testimony and purposeful friendship. The resource consists of an easy-to-follow workbook with scripture study, real-life role-play situations, student worksheets, a journal component, encouraging words from frontline missionaries, connection to additional resources, a video/DVD spotlighting success stories of individuals and congregations who have recently become bolder in their witness. Get yours in August 2004 from Herald House for \$9.95 (ISBN 0830911294).

### *During July, the First Presidency will minister in the following areas:*

W. Grant McMurray: Spectacular-Graceland University, Lamoni, Iowa, USA

Kenneth N. Robinson: Independence, Missouri, USA

Peter A. Judd: Reunion-Happy Valley Campgrounds, USA

What have you done with your summer? We love to hear from you - please share your adventures with us. Items can be submitted to Willa Frey at PO Box 71714, Fairbanks, AK 99707-1714 or emailed to [willajf@gci.net](mailto:willajf@gci.net).

Community of Christ  
Alaskan Golden  
Nugget News

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