

Community of Christ

Alaskan Golden Nugget News

Summer 2008

Thoughts to Consider...

by Willa Frey

In life today we are surrounded by many perplexing decisions needing to be made – now! Many feel that we need time to consider and to pray about it. Others want answers now. The following is a quote by Apostle Susan Skoor on discernment. “Discernment means dedicating time to prayer, meditation, study and quiet listening for direction as we explore the questions before us and the activity of God in the world. Various methods can be used but all of them affirm our two most fundamental beliefs regarding the Holy Spirit: 1. The Holy Spirit is the continuing presence of God in the world. 2. The Spirit works in our minds and hearts through intelligence, comfort,

guidance, love and power to sustain, inspire, and remake us. Our church affirms that through prayer and faith, the Holy Spirit moves in our lives and in the life of the church, both directing us in our outreach and inspiring our faithful witness...Whenever a congregation or an individual wishes to embark in new forms of ministry or service, it is appropriate to use discernment as a tool for discovering our future.”

Let's develop and use these tools as we consider the decisions that lie ahead. Let us not rush into decision making but move in firmly, quietly having spent the time needed to discern His Will for us. If we are willing to listen, really listen, we will receive an answer. WF

Alaska Reunion 2008

Brad Shumate and Bill McFarlin, our visiting ministry brought many thought provoking ideas to share with us in our classes, worship and yes, even in our fun times (such as eating). We were taught several new ways to pray: Centering prayers, Quieting prayers, and how to use the scriptures in our prayer and worship time. The challenges facing us were up for discussion. Kate & Chris Steinell led us to different types of worship each day. Many offered the ministry of music, especially Bev Frey, Sandy Besser, Flo Pearson, and others, including the children. They added a very precious element

“Create Pathways for Christ's Peace”

to our activities.

We used the text, Claimed By Christ's Vision, as the basis for our study and discussion. It is available on line for all who haven't had the opportunity to read its wonderful testimonies and provoking ideas. Many of us go to reunion to be recharged as well as to fellowship with old friends or meet new ones. Section 163 was the basis for our text and is a must for all who would connect with the Christ and with each other as we desire to work together.

I invite all of you to study this material and scripture. It will help guide us in the days ahead. WF

ATTENTION EVERYONE!!! Please send me your e-mail address if you haven't already done so. Then you can get your GNN much quicker and it saves on costs. Send any news to willajf@gci.net. If you can't receive e-mail, I'll send you a hard copy. Promise!!!

Anchorage News...

I haven't received news as yet from Anchorage so I'll tell what I know from attending reunion. WF
It was a pleasure to see Lela & Bill Ayers and Lou Gilmore there and to share with them in the classes. Bill & Lela are up from Arizona where they spend most of the year (when not traveling). Lou Gilmore anxiously waited a phone call concerning her cancer and possible treatment. Instead of an anticipated operation, she is to go to a place in the Midwest where she will undergo a new treatment in hopes of stopping its growth. Please keep her in your prayers. Her niece, Laura, was there and participated in many ways. Charlie Marsh worshipped with us the first two evenings then was rushed to the hospital for internal bleeding. He was administered to and as far as I know, is responding and making good progress. Please add him to your daily prayer activities. He has given such rich ministry to us over the years and we all appreciate it.

Jim Williams was to be operated on July 14th – again and I gather it is for his hip replacement which hasn't gone well in the past. Another one to keep in your prayers.

Al & I met with the Anchorage saints on Saturday evening following reunion at the home of Flo Pearson. Brad Shumate brought his ministry in the form of a video and a presentation about it.

Floyd LaRose, who has been in the hospital from an accident, has had a stroke and other complications passed away July 29th! Keep Margie And Allan (son) in your prayers. Address for sending cards is: Marjorie & Allan La Rose, 10304 Thimbleberry Dr. , Anchorage, Ak 99515

Anchorage folks (sold their building) are now meeting in various homes. Contact Flo Pearson or Jim Williams for place of meeting if you are in town And wish to worship with them. Keep all these folks in your prayers.

Delta Jct News... by Cheryl Cooper

We have been enjoying nice weather here in DJ. With a mix of rain and sun, the veggies, and flowers and the greenhouse are doing very well. We had some spinach last night for dinner from our own garden!

Gary (Cooper) is working with the Soil/Water Conservation District this summer again. He is doing water quality studies on the Clearwater River and also doing some GPS/GIS mapping work for them.

We will both been teaching for the AK Science Consortium in Fairbanks in July. This summer the class focus is earth science and we will have all kinds of scientists from the Geophysical Institute at UAF teaching with us. We will get to go to Denali Park for one of the field trips to see the area where fossils have been discovered recently. This should be a great experience!

We hope everyone is enjoying all the daylight and sunshine this summer!

Homer News...

by Edna Fisk

We just returned from two weeks vacation in Michigan. We attended a family reunion and sorry to say we lost Toras' oldest sister while there. She was 90 in January. There are 8 left in the family and all were present. It was held for several days and all but two are over eighty. There were several nieces and nephews, cousins and friends attended. Each one of the family put on an evening meal. Ours was a halibut meal and all pigged out!

The garden is not doing very well. Guess we can blame it on the cool weather, but I'm sure there will be enough for us. I would like to send a prayer for all those in need. I am doing quite well...We have a little dog given to us a cock-a-poo, and really enjoy him!!

ASSISTANT TO APOSTLE APPOINTED

Carmen Thompson of Southwest International Mission Center has agreed to serve half-time as the assistant to Apostle Susan Skoor. She is currently Mission Center President in that area and will continue to serve those folks as their Mission Center President for half-time. (Sounds like she will be one busy lady!)Sec. 163 states that as the Apostles "move out in faith and unity of purpose, freeing themselves from other duties, they will be blessed with an increased capacity for sharing Christ's message of hope and restoration for creation". Since the World Conference, the Council of Twelve has diligently prayed and discussed ways to delegate some administrative and ministerial tasks to others so that we could focus more on mission. With the support of the First Presidency and Presiding Bishopric, we are currently in the process of recruiting and confirming assistants to the apostles who can assume administrative and/or financial responsibilities: To provide support for mission center teams, MCP's, and MCFO's, to increase operational effectiveness in the field..."

Valley News...

by Carol Coppock

I have just returned from Denver where I went to be with my father and family. My father, Ray Conklin, had been placed in Porter Hospice. He passed away June 6th from Leukemia and was interred in Ft. Logan National Cemetery. The memorial service was held at the church 3 days later when all the family members could attend. I remained in Denver until July 10th in order to provide support for my mother who had no family there. My parents celebrated their 65th anniversary early in May. My dad was a lifelong member of the church and held the office of elder. He was also a boy scout leader, a zion's league leader, an active hunter and fisherman, and could build or fix anything. I would nominate him as the World's Best Father if I ever get the chance. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Dwight has just returned from an 11 day safari in South Africa. He hunted with In Africa Safaris, north of Pretoria and got 4 animals: a Gemsbok, record Impala, a blue Wildebeast and a record Kudu. The Gemsbok was taken with a bow. He has a lot of movies of the area and animals.

Jenny Blickenstaff (daughter) graduated from nurses training. She will take her board of registry test in August. We wish to thank all of our church friends for their prayers. After she started the course two years ago the administration in Portland where she works changed their policy and was going to end her local training opportunity. She had already paid her money to the university in St. Louis (she took the course remotely with local training and frequent visits to the campus in St. Louis for tests and clinical demonstrations. Her money would not have been refunded. We asked for prayers and received a decision by the hospital that since she had already begun and was enrolled, she was the ONLY student they would train. She graduated with good grades and already has a job as soon as she passes the boards.

Dwight and Carole will attend the first-ever Coppock Family Reunion in Upper Michigan in August. Dwight's two sisters: Sharon Smythe and Carla Duke will also attend.

A number of folks from Wasilla area attended the Alaska Reunion. It was great to see them!

Fairbanks News....

by Willa Frey

Tristyn Meath was baptized June 8th by Priest Kate Steinel and confirmed by Elders Sandy Besser & Willa Frey. We welcome her into the family of God with great love! Al & Willa Frey, Sandy Besser & her granddaughters, Sara & Caitlyn, Lesa, Breanne, Brook & Tristyn Meath all attended Reunion along with their Aunt Kim and her children, Emma & Elliot Wiegand.

Frances Huber has been visiting family and friends in Wash. area as well as seeing doctors there. Elsie O'Brien went to a family Reunion in Texas anticipating a wonderful time. She fell and broke some ribs and had to spend the time in the hospital. Several made it a point to visit her there. She has since returned to Fairbanks and is slowly healing. Irene Christie has been busy at the Fair taking turns at the FoodBank booth. She also entered several pieces of clothing and won prizes for them. Congratulations! I hear tell that Brook took his pet frog to the Fair and won a prize on him! Bev Frey taught some classes on decorating eggs (Ukrainian style). Brook and Breanne Both won prizes for their egg entries. Breanne Meath won a Championship ribbon for her writing essay. Al & Willa Frey went to Anchorage to visit relatives and to have several medical appointments. She left with an operation on her left wrist in order to be prepared for the time when she may have to take kidney dialysis. On the way home, they lost the transmission in their car. Oh, well, never a dull moment!

Janet & Paul Landry and grandsons (Kyle & Conner) visited Fairbanks – during our heat wave (85-95 degrees) and found it hard to take. They are from Calif. – on the coast. Clyde Frey & Nate Phillips, Jeremy & Emily Grover, Jen & Brody Ford (and daughters Sara & Caitlyn) all came together and went on a dinner cruise on the Tanana Chief all in honor of Al & Willa Frey's 60th wedding anniversary. Of course they were joined by Sandy Besser, Bev Frey and Hubby Jo Knox and son Jo, and Alana & Craig Malloy as well as some friends. What a wonderful surprise! It was a joyful event for all!

Some other noteworthy news that seemed to escape the last issue follows: Ashleigh Watson and Breanne Meath were part of the Lathrop High School spring concert. Ashleigh is a violinist in the orchestra and Breanne plays the clarinet. It was an impressive concert. Both girls also play for the Lathrop Softball team so they contribute to the arts and athletics at their high school. Brook Meath enjoyed a week long field trip with fellow science students from Barnette Magnet School. They traveled to the Kenai, visiting the Seward Sealife Center, The Challenger Space Center and Clam Gulch. Lots of learning and fun was had by the group. Breanne Meath received the "freshman of the year" award at the choir concert. She was selected by fellow choir members and the award was presented by the Lathrop conductor, Mrs. Soderlund.

Again, congratulations to Stephen Young who graduated from high school in Juneau in June.!

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