

# Alaskan Golden Nugget News

## Community of Christ

April / May 2009

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### Thoughts to Consider...

by Willa Frey

Choices are always before us- some seemingly unimportant but others affecting the lives dramatically. How do we know the result of what a simple choice may end up being? How do my choices affect the rest of my day? My life? The lives of others? Recently a national news show has highlighted the choices and results of "an act of kindness." It has been interesting how those choices and their results affected the person and others. Just one little act! A mother start her children to knit and suggested they make something for someone else. They were interested and began knitting and crocheting. Soon friends became interested and they knit hats, scarves, mittens,

etc. for needy ones. Friends joined in and many people were blessed by their efforts. But were they the only ones? The knitters, themselves benefited greatly and so did the children they helped. Did it end there? I doubt it. Everyone who heard about it was affected. Hopefully, the thought that "I could something like that" entered their minds. Choices can somehow have a negative effort depending on what it was. Gangs beating up others evolve through such choices. Choices are important! Let's pray for guidance that the choices we make affect ourselves and others positively.

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### Alaska Family Reunion

July 12-4 p.m. to July 17 noon

Kate Steinel is Director. Contact her at [yea4kate@hotmail.com](mailto:yea4kate@hotmail.com) ph. 907-322-7793

Guests: Apostle Susan Skoor and Brad Shumate, Estate and Financial Planning Minister

Please send registration form with payment to: Flo Pearson, 3044 Wentworth St. Anchorage, AK 99508

For more information visit [www.cofchrist-gpnw.org](http://www.cofchrist-gpnw.org)

The Reunion will be held near Wasilla, Alaska

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## GREATER PACIFIC NORTHWEST MISSION CENTER

**GPNW Website:** [www.ofcofchrist-gpnw.org](http://www.ofcofchrist-gpnw.org) This is an address at which you can get lots of news, notices of coming events, and information about activities in our Mission. The Chinook, (a newsletter) comes out several times a year and is available on line. Use this resource to enlarge your scope of understanding of what is happening in other parts of the Mission.

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## Kalskag News David/Karen Ward

Our villages of Kalskag are very blessed with the water. We did not get the water as some other villages on the Kuskokwin. We flooded, but no homes were lost. The old cabins where people still live sit on the ground which got some water but no flooding. The newer homes are on stilts. We did not have school because of the water in the villages. 4 feet of water covering the road between the two villages of Upper Kalskag and Lower Kalskag. Our school sits just about 100 feet from the bank so we were very worried. It was quite interesting to see people in their boats on the main road.

Dave and I will be spending our summer with family, friends and our church family in Missouri. We both miss going to our church. We are flying into Anchorage then drive down with a fellow teacher, then fly from Denver on June 9<sup>th</sup>. It will be nice to feel the heat and the humidity which most complain about.

Love in Christ  
Dave & Karen

## Homer News...

By Edna Fisk

Dear Willa,

I am sorry I let you down in the last couple of months but I didn't really have any news. Now as everyone knows it is gardening time. It has just got warm enough to work up the ground and plant a few things like peas, beets, and get the temporary green house up and tomatoes and cucumbers planted. I will do more as weather permits.

Our loss of another little pet poodle, Princess, last Thursday really tore our hearts out again, as we lost one last August, Peaches, a Cock a Poo. Both were killed on the road in front of our house. They were gifts given by friends to keep me company while Toras was out fishing.

We received a call from Florence which was a real surprise but a welcome one and she updated the news of some of our Saints. Sorry to hear you and Al were so sick. My blessings on you and the rest who are ill. If you come to Homer this summer, please look us up.

## Anchorage

At long last Anchorage is getting a new Pastor/Planter. Rick and Emily Collins from Australia will be arriving in Anchorage approximately August 1<sup>st</sup>. They are both Graceland graduates – Rick is 23 years old. They are living in Australia but will be leaving soon for Maine to visit with Emily's parents then plan to drive to Alaska. You can find pictures etc. etc. on Facebook – Rick Collins.

Jim Williams will leave May 21<sup>st</sup> to attend a Family Reunion in Lamoni and vicinity. Jim and Bonnie will make a trip to visit Bonnie's family later in the summer. They are buying a new home in Anchorage-off Minnesota Drive – they are in the process of moving now but Jim says it will take time for them to get settled.

Bob & Connie Merrill are still planning to move about 5 doors down from the home they lived so long on Laser Street. Connie says the new home is being remodeled. They plan to wait until the remodeling is finished, move, then put their present home up for sale.

Bill & Lela Ayers will be late arriving in Anchorage for the summer. They are presently attending high school graduations for two of their grandchildren. They are planning on cruising up the Inside Passage and will arrive in Seward about the last week in May.

Wesley Eastham is having orthodontics work done to make room for his new teeth. He says it isn't bothering him as yet-he may be a bit proud at this point of correction!

## by Lou Gilmore

School will soon be out! The last day in Anchorage is May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Laura Eastham is pleased with her new assignment. A teacher from the states will be her Co-Teacher. They will share a 5<sup>th</sup> and sixth grade in the Russian Emersion Program. Laura will teach English a half day while the new teacher teaches Russian. Laura says this will insure her job since she isn't vested at present. It will be nice to feel secure with a job.

Judy Anderson will also be glad when school is out – she can visit her new grandchild more often. When you see Judy ask her to let you see the pictures of the “most beautiful “baby ever! I saw them and Julia (baby) is beautiful and I am not the grandmother so it has to be true!

Betty Miyashiro is visiting her children in Anchorage this week. I spent one morning with her and she asked about the ones she knows in “Alaska.” She seems in fair health except for the rheumatoid arthritis in her right leg. She is living in Springfield, Missouri.

I am not sure about my health (Lou Gilmore). I have visited Mayo Clinic several times since last fall – last trip was 2 weeks ago. All (4) of the chemos they have tried on me for the last year have been failures. My cancer is so rare they don't study chemos for it so I take chemos that are really for other kinds of cancer.

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I took GLEEVEC for 4 years (several years ago) until it stopped working. They have now put me back on GLEEVEC that has been improved hoping it will work again. The doctor says if it doesn't help me he will put me back on GLEEVEC. It worked longer than any other and he hopes it will again. If it doesn't he's going to put me back on regular GLEEVEC. GLEEVEC and this new one were

for myeloid leukemia. I have only been on this one week so far

The side affects aren't as bad as some of the others. The doctor says I have many more tumors but 4 are large ones. I have 3 that are approximately 4 inches in diameter and another that is 5 inches long and 4 inches deep. Please remember me in your prayers.

## Fairbanks News....

by Willa Frey

Kate Steinel delivered a 9 lb. baby girl, Julia, to the joy of husband, Chris. She is a beautiful little girl, one who seems to sleep all the time and doesn't seem to mind who holds her! Her Mom came to be with her and help out as did Joann Steinel (Chris' Mom).

A lovely Easter service was held at church and enjoyed by everyone. We all shared a turkey dinner together.

An outreach activity was held at the church baking cookies. Some members baked at home and brought the cookies to church where they were all sorted and bagged. They were to go to "Joel's Place", a facility for helping troubled children, especially teens, with extra love and activities. When the cookies were delivered, someone asked, "Who is doing this"? The answer, Community of Christ brought the following response, "Oh, the blanket church!" Isn't that neat?

Last issue, Al Frey was expecting to have a double bypass. The doctor canceled the heart surgery as too great a risk so he is being treated with medication instead. Willa Frey suffered from a severe attack of vertigo and a sinus infection as well as a mild case of pneumonia. They have both recovered (or are recovering) and appreciate the many prayers of everyone. Unfortunately, this has delayed the publication of Golden Nugget News. Thanks for your patience.

In May, Cheryl Davis lost her mother after a 3 year bout with Alzheimer's disease. It has been a very trying time for Cheryl and her father who had primary care of her. Let's remember them in our prayers.

Cheryl's twin brother (Daryl) lives here and is on their support team as does Marcus Swart and his family. Tom Swart and Liz (Cheryl's daughter) flew in for the funeral as did many other relatives. The funeral was held at Chapel of the Chimes on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Our love and prayers go out to Cheryl and her family in their loss.

Elsie O'Brien's brother (who had gone through heart surgery and experienced many difficulties) has just passed away. Lesa Meath, Elsie's daughter, flew with her to Texas for the funeral where they were met by her sister Kim. They shared with many family and friends and enjoyed the visit but sorrowed for the reason they were there. We pray for healing for all of these people in their great loss.

Frances Huber had surgery on her hip and was hospitalized for awhile. She then was sent home where her sister, Irene Christie is taking care of her. Geraldine Ross (Frances' daughter) has also helped in her care. She is doing fine now. Thanks be to God!

Alana Malloy has been busy painting and decorating her home. What fun! She's looking forward to a visit from Craig soon..

Chris Steinel has started a Tuesday evening discussion group at his home. They're beginning with a book, "Irresistible Revolution" Sandy Besser will be leading a small group on community service. Their first meeting is May 24<sup>th</sup> where they'll begin with planning activities. If you have ideas for small group ministry, please contact Chris Steinel at 322-7783.

## Delta Jct News...

Here we go with our news from DJ....

We have had a busy spring with lots of trips to Fairbanks for appointments and to travel out of the airport. In March Cheryl had an unexpected case of optic neuritis that had her in Fairbanks at the hospital for several days. She did not have to stay there, just went for a couple of hours a day for the treatments. It has gotten better and she sees the eye doctor this week to check out the vision and progress of the healing. She was feeling better enough to fly to Anchorage and Nome in early May and do some work with grants she works on at UAF. Now she is looking at her raised bed outside and making plans to plant it with veggies

## Cheryl/Gary Cooper

and flowers.

Gary has been to several places in Alaska the past month doing workshops-Nome, Teller, Dutch Harbor, and Anchorage. He just redid new siding and a roof on the greenhouse so it is ready to be used soon. He has begun his "every day it is nice" bike riding and already has about 250 miles on his odometer. He has been out to float the Clearwater in the canoe too.

We are looking forward to teaching teachers a couple of weeks in June at UAF and then some relaxing! We hope all of you have a great summer!!

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