

# Alaskan Golden Nugget News

## Community of Christ

Summer 2010

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### Thoughts to Consider...

by Willa Frey

Thoughts that keep flitting through my head from my World Conference experience are: “what kind of church do you want to be?” and “what kind of church does God want us to be?”

Let’s take these thoughts, one at a time and explore them. What kind of church do you want to be? What will be its characteristics? List them. What would be its purpose? What would it do? Why? Where are you in this scheme of things? Are you satisfied with this situation? Why or why not? List your reasons and why?

Then take the second question. “what kind of church does God want?” List your reasons and why. What is the purpose of such a plan? What is its main calling?

Sit back and look at them – both plans. Do these plans jibe? Do they support each other? Why or why not? How do you compare in light of both plans or do you clash? Are there ways they can effectively intermesh with each other? Do changes have to be made for them to work effectively together? What? What help do you need? Accompany all of this examination with a lot of prayer – seeking God’s way to improve your effectiveness. God bless you!!

World Conference was an outstanding experience for many who attended. I was one. My son, Clyde Frey, was able to attend with me which made it extra special! He has been before but as a working Graceland student so he didn’t really get a good picture of how it all works together. He worked in the kitchen area. Quite different from being a delegate!

A peaceful, yet potent Spirit presided over the Conference. There was such a spirit and desire to work together – to try and understand other points of view, even when they clashed with our own. It caused me to think and re-think my own convictions. We are learning to accept each other in spite of differences. This is expressed in the diversity present among all of us. Our main task – to live in love and peace and to accept diversity as a part of life that God has created. We don’t always see everything as clearly as we ought. But God does and He will continue to guide us.

Of course, one highlight of Conference is getting together with old friends. What a wonderful fringe benefit! So were the extra activities – group meetings, worship services, and stimulating discussions and sermons!

There were two new apostles ordained – Scott Murphy and Richard Colin Nephi James. One, Scott Murphy, is our new apostle. Both are very dynamic and are hard workers. Write-ups on both of them are in the June Herald. We have all been challenged to be what God is calling us to be, a peace church seeking to discern His will. It is always mind boggling to meet so many people speaking so many different languages and know we are all part of a whole. They are all our brothers and sisters!

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## Alaska Reunion 2010

The Alaskan Reunion was held near Wasilla at LaVerne Griffin Youth Recreation Campground. It is a beautiful place located beside a lovely little lake with great facilities. Good use was made of the swimming area, paddle boats, etc. Kate Steniel was the Camp Director and did a fine job as always. Special guest ministers included Christie Ostendorf, Steve Hatch, Robin Linkhart and Brad Shumate.

Classes were taught by an efficient staff including Christie Ostendorf, Jennifer Ford, Sandra Besser, and Steve Hatch. Bev Frey taught Ukranian Egg design in the afternoons for anyone that was interested. It was a nice way to integrate our camp with some of the other folks staying at the campground. A trip for the hardy was made top Hatcher Pass in a heavy, wet fog. A picnic lunch was held and then folks were challenged to a scavenger hunt. What fun!

by Willa Frey

Different groups set out with the wise ones staying at camp. Most of them were successful in their scavenging except they were a wee bit wet. What fun!!

The youth participated in many ways and were a delight to behold. They helped with worship services by sharing their musical talents and arts, and in other ways. Altogether, it was a beautiful experience to share in. Campfires with s'mores were not to be missed! Inspirational sermons and classes by our guest ministry enriched our total program. Thanks to everyone who helped and participated!

One highlight was a secret planned one that all knew about except one person. T-shirts were decorated with Happy Birthday! Tristyn ! We all wore them on Thursday, Tristyn's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. What a surprise—another memory to tuck away in our Family Reunion book of memories.

## Valley News...

The first official meeting of the Valley Congregation was held Sunday April 16<sup>th</sup> With 18 adults (members) and their children. Dwight Coppock was elected Pastor and Nancy McManus as Communications Director for the remaining 4 months of the term. No budget was presented because the transfer of the financial functions to the CFO Is not yet complete. In October, a budget will be presented and regular elections will be held in sync with the General Church. The appointed officers were sustained. Temple School certificates were presented and a congregational Helping Hands Fund was established. We also had 3 visitors! They were Judy Anderson, Kate Steinel and daughter Julia Steinel!

A congregational planning meeting was held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to allow discussions of long-term goals for the congregation. Brought up for consideration were: youth programs, Sunday Schools for adults and children, community involvement and business cards for members

by Carol Coppock

to leave with community contacts.

Brian Long is singing with the Metropolitan Opera and also has the lead in Pygmalion. He was home for a week June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Taylor Vandermark is a nationalist in the Braille reading and comprehensive competition in June. She can win a \$1,000 college scholarship and also a \$500 "personal spending award."

Ailsa Sepulveda graduated from high school on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations!! Kathy Bowman sustained minor injuries in a roll-over wreck on the Glen Highway last week. This was the result of her attempt to avoid a car merging into her driving space. We are grateful it was not worse. Her car was totaled.

Dorothy and Free Shera are in their home in Missouri for about a month. We already miss them!

Cheryl & Dwight spent most of a week in Fairbanks remodeling one of their stores. What a task that was!

## Fairbanks News....

Willa and Sandy flew to Anchorage recently to attend Bob & Connie Merrill's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. What a magnificent time that was. They used the cul-de-sac they live on for the affair. All the neighbors were invited as well as family, friends and others. Their children were all there and the food was delicious! It even included some street dancing led by Bob & Connie. Some Hawaiian neighbors did several Hawaiian dances also. We all wish Bob & Connie 50 more years of happiness.

This was a special year for Breanne Meath also. She went to Europe for 3 weeks with a girl scout group. They gladly shared their adventures when they returned. Welcome back, we all missed you!

Jennifer and the girls (Sara & Caitlyn) spent a week in Fairbanks then traveled with everyone (caravan style) to Reunion in Wasilla. Now they are coming from Eagle River to Fairbanks to spend some time during 'birthday' month for Jennifer, Caitlyn, and Great-Grandma Willa. Sara Ford had a 'first' trip which she said was a little scary (at first). She flew to Fairbanks by herself to spend a week with Grandma Sandy Besser before the others come. Besides birthdays, it will soon be Fair Time!

July 30<sup>th</sup> a son was born to Shanna & Joe Nelson. He arrived at 12:45 a.m., weighed in at 5 lbs and 15 oz., 19 inches long. His name is Sebastian Alfred Nelson. He wasn't due for another month but is doing fine and so is his mother and father! They live in Phoenix where Joe is stationed with the Air Force. Grandma Bonnie Vargason will be going down to see him about Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> Grandpa David will follow later. Great-Grandma Willa will be going in Sept. since she's been asked to participate in his blessing.

Frances Huber had a bad fall early this spring but is recovering nicely now. Thank you God!

## by Willa Frey

We continue to have Communion Services once a month and meeting in homes on Tuesday evenings for dinner, fellowship and discussions. On alternate Sundays, we also meet to work on our blanket project (community outreach).

Eric & Jennie Vargason recently purchased a home with lots of room! They are busy fixing it up as well as entertaining Jennie's family who came for a visit. What a happy event this was! Congratulations!!

Kate Steinel accepted a job in Anchorage working for the congregation in establishing a new group. Chris stayed in Fairbanks for awhile but then he, too, moved to Anchorage to be with his family. He has applied for positions there, but is currently working on the slope. We all miss this fine family and wish them the best in their new endeavors.

Billy Boyles is in town visiting his daughter, Neva. He said it feels like he has just come home. We are all happy to see him. He's going fishing with David Vargason. Hope they are lucky!

Please remember Bev Frey in your prayers. She had an accident recently and fell in her bathtub. Her neck and head were injured and they put 21 stitches in her forehead. Please lift her up in prayer – prayer really works as many of you know. THANKS!

Thanks everyone who sent in news. We are missing news from a number of you, so I'll ask again, Please collect your news as you go and have it ready to send in by the first of each month. Then when the time comes I can put it all together more quickly and get it on its way. If you have an e-mail address or it has changed, please send it in at anytime. These are ways all of you can help and I really appreciate it!

## Delta Jct News...

I taught a class for teachers in Bethel for two weeks for the AK Science Consortium. We had sun every day we met! I came home to such beautiful weather and a garden and yard that had been taken care of very well by Gary. I had planted flower pots and planters before I left and helped pick out the greenhouse and garden items and he planted them while I was gone. We have been harvesting lots of rhubarb, lettuce, onions, herbs, and now the squash, cukes, peppers and tomatoes are coming on. Gary has gorgeous dahlias and they are in full bloom now. I am

by Cheryl and Gary Cooper

Hoping the blooms are still good enough to enter in the Deltana Fair July 19<sup>th</sup>. We have also been out blueberry picking this past week.

Gary is doing lots of bike riding and for fun he and another guy rode their bikes to Midway from Delta Junction last Wednesday. That was 110 miles round trip for a burger! They had a great time and only one flat tire on the other guy's bike. We hope you are all enjoying the summer and all that it brings.

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