



UNALASKA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

... serving Unalaska and the greater Aleutian Community in the name of Christ

June/July/August 2009

SECOND BLESSINGS

Prayer Point

Please be praying for the many people who come to our Second Blessings sales. With limited services on the island, this is frequently the only chance to purchase necessary items at lower prices.

Our quarterly Second Blessings sale happened the third weekend of May, and as always, was a great success. With many people moving or transitioning during the spring, there was once again a surplus of items available for folks to benefit.

This is always a great opportunity to meet members of the community, and connect in new ways.



Individuals sort through children's books

Every sale, we see ways that God is working through this project! We are also able to pull



out certain items that can be used to help people who are in real need of 'basics' (such as sleeping bags, blankets, jackets, dishware), and also in partnership with our local women's shelter (child seats, cribs, etc.).

CRAYONS FOR CHILE

Prayer Points

Please continue to pray for Xavier and the children's home he works with.

Last Newsletter, we introduced you to Xavier Villanueva from Chile. Once he returned home, we continued communicating with him about the ministry he is involved in there with children. Because of the great generosity of our

partners in ministry, we had a number of crayon boxes yet to be used, and so were able to send 66 boxes of crayons to Xavier for the children's home in Chile! After learning these were on the way, Xavier wrote, "You don't



know how excited I am, I want to see the faces of the children!" Thank you, friends! Because of your giving heart, we were able to share your generosity with children in Chile! Once again, we are reminded of Wesley's suggestion that truly, the 'World is our Parish...!'

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CHILD CARE

Prayer Point

Please be praying for the presence of the right people with the right heart, the financial and facility needs to be met, and for patience to proceed in accordance with God's perfect timing.

As we have continued looking into options for child care, we have received a number of excited responses from the community, including a number of families who have been waiting for just such a possibility. At the same time, however, we have run into several unexpected hurdles.

Since beginning to pursue the idea of providing childcare for the community, several people integral to the



A picnic at Summer's Bay

dream of licensed childcare have made the decision to move off island. At the same time, a number of new state regulations now make it more difficult

for smaller centers to establish and maintain a licensed status. While some of the new regulations will not be difficult to satisfy, others directly

affect the personnel that are eligible to administer the program. Also, we are recognizing the challenges of offering competitive wages that would both be fair to our employees and attract quality applicants (employees with comparable responsibilities at our local community center, just down the street from us, offers starting wages at over \$17/hr...). Finally, we had an inspection from the State Fire Marshall recently, and learned of several concerns with our facility's structure that will need to be addressed in the coming months if even the congregation is to continue using the church kitchen.

We are certainly not giving up the dream, but these things have born influence on the reality of our plans to proceed this fall. Our children are precious, and they deserve only the best; therefore, we are committed as a church to taking whatever time necessary to 'do this right!' We ask that you continue praying with us and for us, that the Lord will provide the right people with the right hearts, and that we have the patience to wait for the right timing for everything to come together according to God's plan.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

We are in ministry here in Unalaska because of the work of Christ and through the generosity of congregations and individuals around the country, and we are not able to do what we do without your help and prayers.

Thank you. As we began 2009, we enter a new quadrennium in the

United Methodist Church,

The Advance and for us, that means a few new Advance Project



numbers. When giving, please refer to the following numbers to specify particular areas in which you would like your gift applied:

- 931855 — Outreach
- 3020469—Operational Expenses
- 3020461—Children's Ministries
- 931012 or 931011—
- Salary Support

For more information, check out <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/Advance/>

Prayer Points

While you support us through your giving and prayers, please know that we continue to lift up your congregations and ministries!

THOUGHTS FROM LOW TIDE

EAGLES IN THE OUTFIELD

As I sat at our table the other day, I glanced out our back window and noticed a rather large adult eagle sitting in the ball field just outside the fence in the back yard.

This is not really unusual here. We have eagles like some places have pigeons. For people visiting or arriving for the first time the eagles are definitely a novelty. For others who have been here a while—they are nothing new. In fact at this time of year, eagles are a little dangerous. As they are nesting and laying eggs, eagles are aggressive towards anyone who threatens the nest. People arrive at the clinic with talon wounds from eagles just defending their territory. Others have lost small pets who wandered too far from their owners. At the same time they are amazing, majestic, and beautiful.

The Prophets frequently used eagles as a symbol of God’s provision, strength, and of swiftness. As I look out on the ball field and see one sitting there, I am reminded of these references. When they reference them as a matter of speed, the prophets regularly compare enemy armies to the swiftness of eagles. It is not meant as a reference to hope for Israel’s people.

As I look at this eagle sitting in the back yard, the thoughts I have are not of provision, strength or swiftness. This one just strikes me as majestic, but also vulnerable. It is not soaring overhead, effortlessly gliding on the eddies of wind, rarely moving its wings. It is not swooping swiftly down on an unsuspecting salmon,

quickly flying away with the unlucky fish in its talons. It is not even sitting, surveying its domain from some high point, looking as though it owns that valley, hill, or subdivision.

But sitting there—it almost made me think of when people are fairly new to faith — great potential, but intense vulnerability. Within each of us is packed amazing gifts, abilities, and potential that God has created within us for the sake of extending His kingdom.

We sit with that potential, waiting for it to be released. A month ago we celebrated Pentecost. What an amazing example of released potential! As the church had its beginning, so we have our sustaining through people experiencing the release of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It is in the Spirit that we receive that provision and strength suggested by the prophets.

Locked within that eagle was the potential for grandeur, and amazing grace. Locked within each of us is the potential to live lives guided by grace, with the possibility of changing not just our lives, but the world.

Taking flight requires our looking to Christ, being led by the Spirit, and following the Father. Let’s Soar!

Hanging onto the Rock,
Pastor Dan

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles
Isaiah 40:31



PROFILE OF A WORSHIPPER

Prayer Point

Please be praying for the Border family as they transition to their new location, that they are able to find a new church home, and that our connection will continue over the miles.

We are accustomed here to saying goodbye. As we meet and get to know various people from the fishing industry, we know that they will likely move on within a few months. Sometimes, though, we say goodbye to someone who has been with us for years.

Chris and Carolyn Border, with their two sons, Jacob and Andrew, have been active in the ministry of Unalaska United Methodist Church for eight years. In “island times”—that’s significant! Chris has been a Math and Science teacher at Unalaska High School in town, and has accepted another position in a private school in Hawaii. Carolyn most recently worked as a teacher’s aide in the Kindergarten room, and has also been the Pampered Chef representative in town (a lot of really cool kitchen gadgets have shown

up in the church kitchen at various times).

Carolyn has also been extremely active in the life of the church. She has actively led at Kids Night Out, was instrumental in the starting and running of our Second Blessing rummage sales, and held additional leadership positions at the church, including periodically assisting with worship leadership. And rarely missing from her side were her two enthusiastic and bright-eyed side-kicks, Jacob and Andrew!!

We deeply miss them as they go, but also know that wherever the Borders are, they will be using their gifts to serve God as they are able. (Andrew made a point to invite everyone to Hawaii. That is just their nature—welcoming and warm, and we will surely miss them.)

Once again, while we say good-bye, we also send them out as fellow workers in the Kingdom. May God’s grace and mercy carry them through this transition, and into a new community of faith.



Some of our ‘kids’ saying good-bye to brothers Jacob and Andrew (center top)

PREVIOUS UNALASKAN PASTORS: UPDATES

Dale Kelly

Pastor Dale began on July 1 serving as an interim pastor at Turnagain UMC in Anchorage—and this wasn’t the first appointment since she left here two years ago (so you could say that she’s never quite fully made it into retirement)! Please keep Dale and Joan in your prayers as they transition to this new congregation and time of ministry.

Ken and Kathy Wilson

Ken and Kathy were in town at the beginning of May to promote Ken’s new book, *The Aleutian Islands of Alaska: Living on the Edge*. In between book signings and other visits, they gra-



Ken and Kathy Wilson with Kris-Ann, Dan, and Lydia

ciously joined us at the parsonage for an open house and welcome reception.

Steve Lambert

Currently serving with the Army as a chaplain in Iraq—please pray for his safety, as well as for Sandra and their children while he is away.

Prayer Point

Let’s be thankful for the faithfulness of our leadership over the years, and pray for God’s continued strength and guidance in their current ministries.

John and Bonnie Campbell

Serving now as missionaries in Lithuania—please keep this exciting and challenging ministry in your prayers!

KIDS NIGHT OUT



Every Wednesday begins with a great meal prepared by volunteers & served by kids

As we finish up another year of Kids Night Out, we look back over a great year. Perhaps the best way to show you how the year has gone would be to share some of the photos of the ministry.

We started off the year with an average attendance of over 40 kids each week, with a regular numbers over 50. As various school and community event coincided with the Wednesday night schedule, our number fluctuated throughout the months.

We took a step of faith by using the *FaithWeaver* material put out by Group Magazine this year. It emphasizes scriptural lessons through games, activities, a 'Surprise Station,' and active stories

that involve all the kids. It has opened up conversations with the students that go deeper than the surface, and we have seen visible growth in many of the kids' walks.

At Christmas, we were talking with the kids about various things that were different in the worship area—the wreath, the tree, different banners, and candles. One of the kids raised his hand and asked "Why do you have that stick up on the wall?" At first we weren't sure what he was talking about, but then realized he was referencing the rough-wood cross that hangs

at the front. It was a reminder to us that we could not assume anything about what these kids know, and that the very basics of the Christian faith need to be emphasized all the time. It also became an excellent opportunity to remind everyone why we celebrate Christmas—because God loved us so



'Peter and John' defend themselves in front of the judges

much that he sent Jesus, his only Son, to die for us. In the midst of celebration, there was a reminder of our need for this gift of grace. In the midst of one season, the entire year came into focus.



Dan Snyder, videographer, tells of mission trips

Prayer Point
Please pray with us that God's presence continue with the kids through the summer, and that we will see many of them at VBS, as well as next fall.



Tiles are used to make trivets for Mother's Day

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Year--End Carnival!



UNALASKA UNDERSTANDINGS

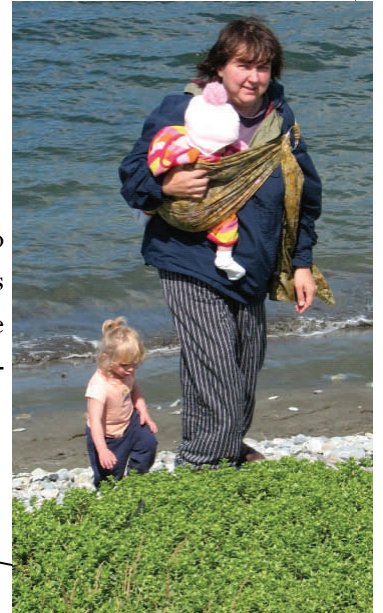


Last time . . . Here's a shot of a commercial long-line fisherman pulling in his catch—what are these, and why does he need so many of them?

Answer: These are anchors used to secure each end of a line set out to catch fish. The anchor holds the line and buoy in place so a set can be found when the boat returns to find the catch. Pastor Dan had the chance to spend a night on this boat during a halibut fishing trip—no worry about changing careers...!



New Question: In this older photo (the kids are a lot older now) what is the plant Kris-Ann and the kids are walking over in front of the parsonage, and what is its significance?



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P.O. BOX 121
UNALASKA, AK 99685

Check us out on the web at www.UnalaskaUMC.com!