

Kenai
Christian
Church

NEWS

John 11:25

February 22, 2012

Vol. 12 No.2

Our Services

Sunday

Sunday School 9:45 AM
Worship 11:00 AM
Evening 6:30 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 PM

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Upcoming Dates

March 9th, Second Friday @ Friendship Mission

March 9-11 Youth Winter Retreat

March 11 Daylight Saving Time begins,
turn your clocks forward one hour

March 12-16 Spring Break

March 20th Spring begins

April 1st Palm Sunday

April 8th Easter

April 27-29 Weekend to Remember

“Cabin Fever”

Those who have lived in Alaska for any length of time know that the days of March are often labeled, “Cabin Fever Days.” This reasoning is somewhat sound and is based upon several factors.

- a. The daylight hours from October through March are greatly decreased,
- b. It is generally cold--even experiencing extended cold periods,
- c. And the snow just keeps on coming.

By the time the month of March rolls around, folks have been limited to much more “inside” time than “outside” time. By being cooped up in the house we are apt to become a bit “stir crazy,” hence, the slogan, “Cabin Fever.” And even though the days are longer and the temperatures are warmer, there is still much evidence that winter has not lost its grip.

The Copenhaver family has found at least a partial solution for remedying this malaise. The whole family takes a lengthy walk outside nearly every evening whether there is rain, snow, cold, wind, or other unpleasant conditions. I admire them greatly for this. Sheila and I have not been so dedicated.

I realize the world, state, and community offer many alternatives to assist in offsetting the blight of “Cabin Fever,” but I would offer a consideration that God offers.

It is good to spend time with the family, or other families, in growing to become “. . . more like the Master.” I have a friend who lives in Circleville, Ohio. His work was seasonal (Spring, Summer, Fall), and he used the winter season for a time of study. He read his Scripture; he prayed; he served his family; and, he served the congregation as a teacher and conscientious elder and leader. Don Kasler is still living and is an example for me and to the congregation in Circleville.

He reminds us of where true joy is found and where it is learned. He is an elderly man now, but his legacy will live on through his children, through the Circleville congregation, and through people like myself who know him and have been blessed by his example. Thank you. Don.

--Robert

This last week while I was getting ready for work, I happened to overhear my wife reciting her memory verses. Veronica, along with a couple of women from the congregation, is currently memorizing the book of James. As I listened to her recite James chapter one, I was reminded of the straight forward, no nonsense nature of its author.

The New Testament includes the names of four men by the name of James, but scholars are almost certain that the book was written by James the brother of Jesus. James was one of several brothers that Jesus had and he's thought to be the oldest based on the fact that his name appears at the head of the list in Matthew 13:55.

Now, it's no secret that Jesus and his brothers didn't always see eye to eye. In fact, Scripture records at least one incident where his brothers appeared to make fun of his ministry and who he claimed to be. John 7:1-5 tells us...

After this, Jesus went around in Galilee, purposely staying away from Judea because the Jews there were waiting to take his life. But when the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near, Jesus' brothers said to him, “You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples may see the miracles you do. No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.” For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

Now, you want to talk about a discouraging time in Jesus' life. Not only were the Jews trying to kill him, but his own family members had turned on him as well. I can't imagine how painful these words must've been coming from his own flesh and blood.

It makes me wonder, if James had this incident and others like it in mind, when he wrote about the challenges of taming the tongue in James chapter 3. I can't help but think that James must've cringed when he thought about the manner in which he and his brothers had verbally assaulted Jesus and his ministry.

As I was reading the book of Proverbs this last week, and thinking about the group of ladies who are memorizing the book of James, I ran across a verse that caught my attention. In Proverbs 12:25 Solomon says, “An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.”

I can't imagine how encouraging a kind word from one of Jesus' brothers would've been to him as he prepared to make his way to Jerusalem. What if instead of waiting for his brother to leave to set out for Jerusalem, Jesus would've been able to travel in their company and receive their support and encouragement along the way. Although the cross would've still been awaiting Jesus there in Jerusalem, it certainly would've made the journey a bit more bearable.

I hope as we look around us, and see our brothers and sister in Christ facing trials of many kinds, that we do our part to encourage them along the way. Solomon was right, sometimes all it takes is a kind word to lift us up when we're down. I hope that you and I look for opportunities daily to speak such encouraging words into the life of others.

Because He's the Truth,
Bryan

Mission Moment

As 2012 steams forward, I want to thank everyone who has been giving and praying for our missionaries around the world. It's interesting that over and over again in the Bible, the church is likened to a body. Christ is the head of a massive, multi-cultural, international, multi-lingual body. How can we all possibly stay connected?

Prayer

Prayer is the skin of the body of Christ. It stretches over all parts, covering each one in protection and defense. Our skin reaches from the bottoms of our feet to the tops of our heads and we would not survive without it. When we step outside in -30 degree weather, our skin works in unison, retracting and bumping up so that we can stay warm. Our skin keeps the body in sync.

The way that we stay connected to our missionaries throughout the field is through prayer. That is why the missions team would like to ask all of us to take the 15th of each month to remember to pray for our missionaries. We will be letting you know of prayer needs that our missions have before the 15th, and we would like to encourage our family here at KCC to take a few moments out of your busy day and lift up the other parts of our body all over the world.

So remember, the 15th of each month is going to be "Pray for our Missionaries Day". Let's lift up our missionaries on the 15th and throughout each month. Here are some prayer requests:

Ira and Nova McBee – Nova is due to have her baby on Feb. 29th. Pray for health and safety for mom and baby.

Living Waters (Haiti) – A recent electrical explosion has fried over 20 of the computers at the school. Also, the new medical clinic is close to being finished; pray for the funds to get to where they need to.

T.C.M. – The leadership is in transition with a new director coming in as the former leaves. Pray for the smooth transition.

Thank you, saints, for your prayers.
Serving Alongside,

The Missions Team



PRAISE

Mandi Castillo placed her membership on Sunday, January 29, 2012

David & Joyce Tugan placed their membership on February 8 2012

Rich Zifko was baptized on February 1, 2012 and **Jay Harrell** on February 5, 2012

Welcome to the KCC Family!

It's a BOY!

Congratulations to the Meyers family, Adam, Karlene and big brother Jack welcomed



Bowe William Reed Meyers

on Saturday, February 18, 2012
7 lbs 5 oz and 19 3/4 inches tall.

2ND FRIDAYS

@ THE FRIENDSHIP MISSION

Let's put our **love** and effort together to help **serve** Skipper & Mary Anne at the Friendship Mission the 2nd Fridays of every month!

Sign up to help put together a delicious dinner, then **GO** and fellowship with our brothers!

Friday, March 9 @ 4:30pm

Our Sincere Condolences to the families of,

Claire Huffman

She went home on February 20, 2012

Dave Tugen's brother, **Steven Tugen**, went to be with our Lord February 21st.

KCC Women

Ministering to the women of Kenai Christian Church since June 1999

2012

Women's Ministry Theme

Simply Jesus

Philippians 2:5-9

In your life together, think the way Christ Jesus thought. He was like God in every way, but he did not think that his being equal with God was something to use for his own benefit. Instead, He gave up everything, even his place with God. He accepted the role of a servant, appearing in human form. During his life as a man, he humbled himself by being fully obedient to God, even when that caused his death-death on a cross. So God raised him up to the most important place and gave him the name that is greater than any other name.

NIV



The purpose of the Kenai Christian Church Womens Ministry is to enhance the spiritual growth of women and to provide opportunities of ministry and service through fellowship, love and encouragement.



Ladies Fellowship Craft Time

Friday, February 24th

6 pm

Bring your craft project/supplies to work on,
a snack to share,
and we'll meet in the Foyer.



Upcoming Spring Dates

March 11 Daylight Saving Time begins, turn your clocks forward one hour
March 12-16 Spring Break, women's studies dismissed on Thursday the 15th

March 23, Mommy Gym Time

Palm Sunday, April 1st

Easter, April 8th

Weekend to Remember, April 27-29
(details to come)

S'mores Bars (no bake)

1 1/2 packs of graham crackers, crushed into crumbs

1 cup chocolate chips, plus a heaping 1/2 cup for later

1 cup butter

2 TBSP sugar

2 TBSP cocoa

2 TBSP honey

1 cup mini marshmallows

Line an 8 x 8 pan with foil and grease with butter. Heat on low, 1 cup chocolate chips, butter, sugar, cocoa and honey, in sauce pan until melted, stirring well. Remove from heat and cool slightly. Stir in crushed crackers, mix well so all crumbs are coated. Add marshmallows and remaining 1/2 cup of chips. Spoon mixture into prepared pan and smooth the top. Chill for 2-3 hrs or until set.

Warming Wishes

Cassy Rankin

All 198 pounds of her stood proudly, if not somewhat awkwardly on the middle of the blue tarp. Believe it or not, she didn't even bat her big brown eyes when I fired up the hair dryer and began to run it along her buckskin coat. Her silky black mane blew in the blast of air from the blow dryer and made her look like a race horse running the track. Soon her fuzzy brown head rested on my knee and she was dozing.

Going from a wet, heavy snow at 30 degrees above zero one day to the frigid, icy dryness of minus 30 the next, our smallest miniature horse was left with icicles in her eyelashes, frost along the tips of her winter coat, clumps of rock-solid, golf ball-sized ice clumps stuck throughout her tan hair, and worst of all, a deep-down wetness right next to her skin.

When we began acquiring animals for our little farm-of-sorts, my husband and I made an agreement: No livestock in the house! He was serious about this. He grew up a country boy. Animals don't belong in a house, they belong o-u-t-s-i-d-e. As I anxiously watched our animals go from frisking in the heat wave of above zeroness, to moving just enough to seek out more hay to nibble in order to keep themselves warm in the temperature drop of almost sixty degrees this week, I worried especially about Wishes, our mini horse who is very sweet, but very stubborn when it comes to huddling up with the other animals in the barn. She just won't do it. Our larger mini and the dwarf goats know the gig; they head for the barn and curl up in a warm ball of fur and wood shavings to bed down for the night.

Not Wishes. She's our lone ranger. Ever since our second mini came to the farm a month ago and promptly fell in love with our little barn, Wishes, either because of horse pride or horse fear or not thinking herself high enough on the herd pecking order, refuses to enter the barn at night. She opts instead for the cold floor of snow and the not-so-warmth of the outside barn wall. God gave most species of animals the instinct to group together during wet or cold times for warmth. A huddle of animals will generate enough heat to keep each of the individual animals warm. In certain situations, survival can very well depend on staying in a group. Wishes has her reasons for not allowing herself to venture into the barn with the rest of the animals, but the outcome of allowing her reasons to be bigger than her instinct became very evident this week; the stark temperature and her small stature made her very cold. Too cold. Dangerously cold.

Which is why I found myself breaking the solemn pinky-swear agreement I had with my husband and leading my little horse into my little kitchen to thaw out. The kids were playing and Matt was (conveniently) away that morning so I allowed her plenty of time to rest and warm and enjoy the head to hoof treatment I gave her, chipping and melting ice and frozen debris as I went. It was quiet in the kitchen and as the knee-knocking shakes from the outside temperatures gave way to a calm and curious stance during her first peek of this warm, foreign place, I couldn't help but think of how many times I'd done exactly what my little horse had done – alienated myself to the point I was in danger of freezing to death.

How many times have I found myself in a spiritual cold patch and because of fear, or hurt, or not thinking enough of myself, or worse, thinking too much of myself, have I opted to remain alone in the chill instead of placing myself in the warmth and security of my Christian family? How often have I chosen to stay out in the snow, just getting colder instead of letting God lead me into the comfort and heat of His Word? How many times have I let the habits and insecurities of my upbringing keep me from reaching out to others in my need?

Are you having a rough winter? Are you in a season where your heart is cold and in dire need of a de-icing? Are you so frozen that you're spiritually shaking? Have you asked God to take you in and thaw you out? If not, let His Words and His truth and His love warm you. Let Him melt the layers of ice around your heart then get yourself into the barn! You need the warmth of your brothers and sisters to keep you warm. And they need you too. If you're not cold, but know of someone who is, don't sit in the warmth of your shelter and watch them shiver. Pull them in. They need your warmth. Huddle up. During frigid times, their survival...and yours ...may very well depend on it.

Wishes still won't go in the barn at night. I'm confident she will someday though. She will learn that her instinct is smarter than her stubbornness. But for now, she's safe and dry. As for my husband and our agreement? He balked at first when he heard there had been a barn animal in the kitchen. But compassion for our cold little horse couldn't keep him upset at me for breaking the Farm Animals Outside Only rule. Although I'm quite sure I did hear him muttering something about "big trouble if I ever find goat prints on the table..."

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Ecclesiastes 4:9-11



Alien Youth Alert! March 2012

Verse of the month:

Matthew 10:29-30– Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Important Dates!

March 9-11– Winter Retreat
Solid Rock Bible Camp, \$85
Drop off– 7pm, Friday March 9th
Students return to KCC on Sunday am
You can still register!!
See Adam for registration form.
Scholarships are no longer available.

March 12-16– Spring Break

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HE SEEMED TO HAVE FAILED TO RETAIN THEIR FULL ATTENTION, BUT AT LEAST HIS SERMON WOULD BE AVAILABLE LATER ON THEIR YOUTUBE, FLICKR, TWITTER, AND FACEBOOK ACCOUNTS

10-24-2008

Winter Retreat

Yet another Winter Retreat is upon us. I can hardly contain my excitement!! Every year I am amazed by how lives are so affected by the ministry of Winter Retreat. It provides so many great things for our youth here at KCC. First of all, it provides fellowship with each other as well as fellowship with congregations across Alaska. Secondly, every session over Winter Retreat opens with singing praises to God. Youth who are only familiar with singing once or twice a week are now given the opportunity to sing five times in less than three days. Third, the Biblical instruction during these days are challenging, engaging, and connected. Being in the word of God for just a few days consistently can and will change your life! So, if you are a youth (or a parent of a youth) make sure that you don't miss 2012 Winter Retreat. The benefits are eternal! Contact Adam ASAP with your registration.

What to pack:

- Eat dinner prior to coming Fri night!!
- 2 changes of clothes
- Winter gear for outside activities
- Bible
- Notebook for note taking during session
- Pen/Pencil
- Towel & Washcloth
- Toiletries
- Flashlight
- \$ for snack shack (optional)

Do not bring:

- Electronic devices (including cell phones)
- This retreat is known as a technology deprivation camp. We want to prove to you that you can survive for two days without your normal daily distractions.