

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

# A Burning Fire!

## OUR FAMILY NEWS

**Pray For:** The Reeds grandson, Caleb and his mother; Phyllis Maxwell as she recovers from surgery, Doris Fikes, Peggy Beebe; Wayne Ezell will be traveling to Seattle for surgery soon.

**Traveling/Working:** Slope workers, Thad Douthitt (deployed) , Steve and Abby, Hans and Danesa are traveling outside. Eddie and Susan are traveling and will return around the 25th.

**Radio Program:** Listen to "Searching the Scriptures", our weekly radio program, Sundays at 9am, on 99.7 FM.

**Today's Scripture:** "But if I say, 'I will not remember Him Or speak anymore in His name,' Then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; And I am weary of holding *it* in, And I cannot endure *it*." **Jeremiah 20:9 (NASB)**

**Today's Wisdom:** "Now a thing was secretly brought to me, and mine ear received a little thereof. In thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falleth on men, Fear came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones to shake" **.Job 4:12-14 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday: 72      Record: 96

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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April 15th, 2018 BULLETIN for the

# Church of Christ AT WASILLA

## God's Plan of Salvation

Hear .....Romans 10:17  
Believe .....Mark 16:16, Hebrews 11:1-6  
Repent ..... Acts 2:38, II Corinthians 7:10  
Confess ..... Romans 10:9-10, Matthew 10:32-33  
Be Baptized..... Mark 16:16, Acts 22:16  
Arise & Walk in Newness of Life.....Romans 6:4

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth..."

—Romans 1:16 KJV

### MEETING TIMES

#### Sunday:

Bible Classes: 10AM  
AM Worship: 11AM  
PM Worship: 6PM

#### Wednesday:

Bible Study: 7PM

### OFFICE HOURS

Tue./Thur. 3PM-7PM

### COME JOIN US!

The church of Christ at Wasilla meets at:

2061 N. Merciful Circle  
Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 373-5773

Visit our website at:

[www.churchofchristwasilla.com](http://www.churchofchristwasilla.com)

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

## A Burning Fire?

In January of this year, the Elders selected "Excited for 2018!" as the theme for this year for the church of Christ at Wasilla. The purpose was to encourage each of us to work diligently for the Lord here in the Mat-Su Valley of Alaska. It has been about three and a half months since they made that decision and it is time to take stock of our progress. I want to encourage each of us to assess carefully and honestly our own progress over this time. We need to ask ourselves bluntly; "What have I done?"

What have I done to spread the gospel message to the lost souls in southcentral Alaska? What have I done to insure that the church of Christ at Wasilla is a church on fire for the Lord? Have I allowed excitement about the gospel to show in my daily life, or have I stifled it so that the best that can be said is that I am a lukewarm participant in the cause of Christ here.

Jeremiah, said that even if he decided not to speak anymore about God his heart would become a burning fire and he could not continue to hold the message in. The early Christians in Jerusalem could not help but tell their neighbors what they had seen and heard. Jesus lived, He died and was buried and He lives again! What a message, what hope they gave to all humanity. Death had been conquered and the grave was no longer the stronghold of Satan. Because Jesus was resurrected, we can be certain that we will be raised again as well. It was that message that they were repeating where ever they went. It was the message of forgiven sins and an eternal home with God that rang out loudly from the lips of common men. It was that message that was taught quietly in the villages, towns and cities of the first century world! Fishermen taught it! A tax collector taught it! Husbands and wives taught it! A doctor taught it! And a scholar taught it!

Even during the persecutions that occurred in the early days of Christianity, Christians spread the gospel where ever they went. And it didn't matter who they were talking to. Philip converted Samaritans, people who the Jews despised, he then taught the treasurer of Ethiopia. Ananias taught Saul, a killer of Christians. Peter taught Cornelius, a gentile and a Roman soldier. And the fire of Christianity spread throughout the known world. It spread not because God made it spread by divine intervention, it spread because Christians could not contain themselves and they taught whoever they met where ever they were! Common people received it. Tax collectors listened, lawyers listened, fishermen listened. And they responded by saying "Men and brothers, what must we do?"

The answer was simple then, and continues to be simple today. Hear the message about Jesus, believe that He is the Son of God and that He died for your sins, for my sins, repent from living a sinful life, confess your belief in Jesus as Gods Son who died for you and be baptized, washing away the purge of sin in your life.

## By: Bill Beebe

The response was tremendous. The world was turned upside down! (Acts 17:6)

But less than a generation later, that fire had died in places. Jesus warned the Christians in Laodicea that they had lost the passion of their religion. *"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."* **Revelation 3:14-16 (KJV)** They were looking at a reflection of themselves in a magical mirror. They saw riches, where Jesus saw poverty. They saw strength where Jesus saw weakness. They saw well dressed and attractive Christians where Jesus saw nakedness and wretchedness. And Jesus said to them, I will spew you out of my mouth unless you repent and reignite the fire that you once had.

So...in the last three and a half months, has the word of God burned in your bones so that you can't contain it and you are forced by its power and the glory of its message to proclaim it to all that you meet? Or has it dwindled down to a ember, barely alive and without any urgency at all?

The problem with lukewarm Christianity is that those of us who are infected with it can not see it. The Laodiceans couldn't see their true nature. Jesus had to tell them what their actual condition was. The same is true today. We think we are ok and active, after all we attend services once or twice or maybe even three times a week. We give our funds to the church. We even read our Bibles a few times a month or maybe even weekly or daily. So we must be in great shape, most of the world doesn't even to that much. However, instead of comparing ourselves to the rest of the world we ought to compare ourselves to Jesus. It will be then that we will see our true nature, and not the one that Satan wants us to see.

At the last men's meeting we passed out a sheet and asked that each family identify one person that they would like to see converted this year. The elders weren't asking for much, just the name of one person from each family that we could pray for, contact and try to set up a bible study with. Is there at least one person that you know that you would love to see in heaven....or not? So far it seems that we just are not that concerned.

Will we be a congregation burning with the desire to spread the Gospel to a lost world, or will we be a lukewarm church repugnant to the Lord? But another question is will YOU be a Christian on fire for the Lord, or will YOU be spit out?