

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

# Rejoice!

## OUR FAMILY NEWS

**Pray:** Wayne Ezell, Jessica Gipson (Wayne's daughter) is having stomach problems, Peggy Beebe.

**Traveling/Working:** Slope workers. Carla and the kids will return Tuesday. Chris and Christine are traveling.

**Family Activities:** Don't forget the Women's Class every other Saturday, next is scheduled for February 16. VBS is quickly approaching, check with Joe or Tom to see how you can participate and assist with this. We will also schedule a door knocking campaign a week or two earlier to advertise our VBS and try to set up Bible Studies.

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

**Today's Scripture:** "Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." **Matthew 5:12 (KJV)**

**Today's Wisdom:** "But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you." **Psalms 5:11 (ESV)**

**Attendance Last Sunday: 82/ Record: 107**

*For more detail, please go to the web site.*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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February 10th, 2019 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: 5PM

#### Wednesday:

Bible Study: 7PM

### OFFICE HOURS

Tue./Thur. Call or Ck Web

### 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*

## Rejoice!

Of all the people in the world, we Christians ought to be the most joyous! We will, of course, have our share of physical and material troubles like everyone else. In fact we may face more than others as Satan tries to tear us away from Jesus. We may face serious physical disabilities, diseases or illnesses. We may face financial troubles, or even financial ruin. We may lose our family or friends to an early death as Satan tries to take away from us anything that gives us solace. But the one thing that he will never be able to take away from us is the promise of an eternal home in Heaven. And that should cause us to rejoice regardless of any thing that happens to us here. That is why Paul told the Christians in Philippi, and us, “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” **Philippians 4:7 (ESV)**

While it is important for us as individual Christians to understand the peace and joy we have in Jesus, we as a congregation should be joyful as well. Our joy as a group of Christians should be clearly seen by each of us and by any visitor that comes in. Paul tells us “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” **Romans 14:17 (ESV)** It is not so much that we share meals together, although that is a way for us to enjoy each others company, but the righteousness, peace and joy that we as a collective Christian community share with each other and our visitors. But the question is how do we demonstrate that peace and joy that we as a congregation should have? Do we demonstrate peace and joy in ways that each member can see and share? Do we demonstrate this peace and joy when we have visitors attend?

To demonstrate this peace and joy as a congregation, we need to make each member feel valued, and wanted. Doing this will encourage each member to participate in our personal work, evangelistic efforts, Bible classes and fellowship activities. No member of our congregation should feel that they are unwanted or not appreciated. No member of our congregation should feel that they are not missed when they are not able to attend services. No member of our congregation should feel that their disability, their extended sickness or their illness is not recognized or understood by the rest of us. The joy and peace that we, as a congregation, should have begins with a real and deep love for Jesus and each other. And it is demonstrated by our actions.

When a member is sick and misses our services, we should immediately contact them. When a member is facing difficulties and becomes depressed we should all reach out with assistance and encouragement. When a member reaches out to us in an effort to regain that peace and joy that they once had as citizens of the Kingdom of God, we should welcome them with open arms. And we should remember the exhortation that James gave us; “Is any among you

By: Bill Beebe

afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” **James 5:13-16 (KJV)**

When a visitor starts attending regularly, we should remember that we are a collection of forgiven sinners, and not a privileged group of sinless people especially blessed by God that are not able to understand them or their situation in life. This doesn't mean that we change our teaching to prevent them from getting their feelings hurt, or to coddle unscriptural beliefs. But that we teach the truth with love to all who are in attendance.

But most of all, we need to cultivate an atmosphere that encourages members and visitors to return. We need to develop a culture that allows everyone that attends to feel valued and wanted, rather than unwanted and under valued. And we need to demonstrate a love for each other that causes our members and visitors to want to come back to our next meeting rather than feeling as if they are being shamed into returning. So, once again, the question is; “How do we develop a congregational culture that values each and every member and visitor?”

We start by understanding and practicing the first and second greatest commandments. “Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, <sup>3</sup>Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” **Matthew 22:35-40 (KJV)** Then we need to practice the instruction of Paul in **Romans 12:9-13 (ESV)** “Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”

If we practice these things, our congregation will be known as a place where people are full of peace and joy. And that will cause us to be known as a place where the peace of God reigns and where the congregation rejoices.