

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

# Made Alive!

## OUR FAMILY NEWS

**Pray:** Windell Fikes, he is somewhat better but still needs prayer. Peggy Beebe continues to suffer. Wayne Ezell needs prayers.

**Traveling/Working:** Slope workers. Hans is in Dillingham, pray for his safety. Eric Wittrock is traveling in bush Alaska for work, pray for his safety. Tom Betti is also traveling, pray for his safety.

**Family Events:** We will conduct another door knocking effort next Saturday, May 18, 2019 to invite people to our VBS. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

**Area Wide Singing:** We will host an Area Wide singing Saturday June 1, 2019 beginning at 6:00 PM, let all your friends and relatives know and invite everyone to come and praise God through Au Capella singing.

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

**Today's Scripture:** "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." **1 Corinthians 15:22 (KJV)**

**Today's Wisdom:** "The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. **Psalms 41:2 (KJV)**

**Attendance Last Sunday: 85/54 Our Record: 107**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### ELDERS:

Ed Maxwell	(907) 373-5583	<a href="mailto:ed@churchofchristwasilla.com">ed@churchofchristwasilla.com</a>
Hans Nicholson	(907) 230-2969	<a href="mailto:hnichs@gmail.com">hnichs@gmail.com</a>
Paul Stone	(907) 491-1170	<a href="mailto:good_nooz@yahoo.com">good_nooz@yahoo.com</a>

### DEACONS:

Joe Murdock	(907) 715-0089	<a href="mailto:montana2189@hotmail.com">montana2189@hotmail.com</a>
Phillip Kelly	(907) 632-1118	<a href="mailto:affordablehydroseeding@hotmail.com">affordablehydroseeding@hotmail.com</a>
Logan Decker	(907) 244-1777	<a href="mailto:logan.decker9@gmail.com">logan.decker9@gmail.com</a>

### EVANGELIST

Bill Beebe	(907) 841-9261	<a href="mailto:bill@churchofchristwasilla.com">bill@churchofchristwasilla.com</a>
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## 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
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### 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

## Make Alive

The current interest in things such as X Games, MMA, Running of the Bulls in Spain, and extreme downhill skiing are indicators of the desire in humans to feel “alive”. Each of these produce a rush of adrenalin in both the participants and their audiences that make them feel more alive. They encourage our “fight or flight” response in which some feel enriches their lives. No longer are they just a worker on an assembly line, or an office worker sitting in one of hundreds of cubicles. For a short time either as participants trying not to be ran over by a bull, or skiing slopes approaching 90 degrees, or fighting in a ring or octagon; or as audiences viewing those activities, they feel truly alive. No longer is life just an endless circle of waking up at 5:00 AM to get to work on time, working from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, driving or riding home, fixing dinner and going back to bed so that they can do it all over again the next day, and the next, and the next. But for a short time, they can experience a life that has some excitement and feel as if there is something more than their every day existence.

Unfortunately this hum-drum existence finds its way into the church. Some congregations are nothing more than a group of people doing things by habit with no real joy. Sunday morning, Sunday evening and Wednesday evening services are nothing more than an extension of their daily lives. They are such a routine activity that the people attend without any thought, it is just what they do at those times of the week. Similar to what they do every weekday, they attend church just because that is what is expected of them, or because they wouldn't know what else to do if they didn't go. And just occasionally there is something that causes them to feel alive. Maybe a famous preacher comes in for a day or two and stirs up something in their hearts. Or maybe there is a song service with good song leaders who select and lead songs that are uplifting. But, like those who watch the X-Games, professional wrestling, MMA or the Running of the Bulls that feeling last for a short time and they go back to their routine, boring lives. And the following Sunday they are back in worship service looking like what I call mule-faced Christians. Long faces, no emotion of any kind showing and looking as if they were wishing they could be anywhere but where they are.

Satan paints an enticing picture of sin. He gives us the 8 by 10 glossy, while covering up the filth, pain, and destroyed lives that are its inevitable results. The endless pursuit of “pleasure” promised by Satan bankrupts families both financially and morally. The desire to feel alive while participating in sin is like a drug. It requires more and more sinful activities to get the same result, that feeling of being alive. That is why the industries producing porn, alcohol and gambling arenas are making billions of dollars annually. The more you indulge, the more you want. The more you want, the more you need to feel that same feeling you did at the beginning. And soon you are caught in a whirlpool that you can not escape. Divorce, addiction, abused children, and death are com-

By: Bill Beebe

monly the end. And those who survive all too often look back on a wasted and empty life.

I do not believe that this is what God intended for us. I think He wants us to life a full and happy life, and to truly enjoy worshiping Him. Paul in **Romans 6:5-11 (ESV)** tells us this: “<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” Once we were enslaved to sin, but being born again we have died to sin and therefor are free from its hold on us. So we are dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. What a joy filled thought!

We need to understand that when we became a Christian we died to sin and became truly alive in Christ. Paul also tells us this “<sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” **Ephesians 2:4-7 (ESV)** God loved us enough to prepare a way that we could be freed from the slavery of sin and live a truly “alive” life. We can be truly happy and alive for years, and then we can experience eternity in the “immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us”. We can experience the pleasures of earthly living in our families, both physical and spiritual. We can look at nature and know that it is ours by inheritance, because our Father made it for us. And He made it for us to enjoy. And we can truly enjoy the pleasures He designed for us, the way He designed them, for more than a fleeting moment.

So when you meet with the church to worship our Father, do so with gladness and a feeling of being truly alive. Enjoy your brothers and sisters after all they will be part of your eternal family. Enjoy singing (and sing like you enjoy it), pay attention to the prayers, listen to the lessons. And through all this know that you are truly loved and that you are really alive, then show it by your attitude!