

# CLEAR WATER CURRENTS

October 2019 eNewsletter



## Mediocrity vs Excellence vs God's Love

I was reading Ron Chernow's "Alexander Hamilton" recently and one of the thoughts that claimed my attention fell in line with a recent observation at the gun range. In our society it has become somewhat normal to accept mediocrity as the standard for excellence. While many of us may have subscribed to that theory in our life before meeting God, I implore all of us to pursue holiness because God is holy (1 Peter 1:16). Because what becomes important is not in comparing ourselves to other's progress in their relationship to God, but in realizing that He calls to each of us to be servants of all (Mark 9:35). I am not advocating that we pursue performance at the cost of loving God and others, but I am asking that we realize that when we see that we don't care about areas of our lives that we should care about, then we seek a quiet place to address where our fleshly desires have led us astray versus the life that God wants us to lead. Ask yourself today what areas of your life are you living a substandard version of what God wants for you. Then turn it over to Him and give Him your all. This world needs excellence, but it needs God's love and your love most of all (Matt 22:37-39).

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## THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE - Relocation for Oct 10 & 24

Due to activities at Wendler on these night, we will meet at the First Church of God at the Corner of Tudor Road and Macinnes Street (4317 Macinnes Street, Anchorage, AK 99508)

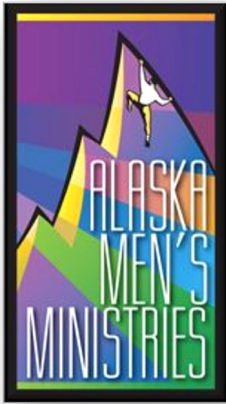
## AROUND THE BEND

### YOUTH PRAISE BAND - Begins September 29

The purpose of this band is to perform during the Christmas Eve service. The band is open to all youth and will be led by Brian Whitson. Practices will begin immediately after Sunday worship and end at 2pm.

Rehearsal will be on the following days: 9/29, 10/13, 10/27, 11/10, 11/17, 11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22, 12/24 (Christmas Eve).

Contact Brian Whitson at 268.8659 or [brian31605@gmail.com](mailto:brian31605@gmail.com) for more information.



**ALASKA MEN'S MINISTRIES MEN'S SUMMIT** - October 12, 8am-12pm

*Faith Christian Community Church*

This year's theme: "Doing Life Together". Our guest speaker is Gene McConnell who will talk about the importance of being connected with other men in authentic relationships as you journey through life. There will also be a number of breakout workshops on topics such as protecting your kids in the digital age, pornography, and bible studies. To register go to [akmensministries.com](http://akmensministries.com). Cost \$20.00. For questions contact Steve Gordon at 441.4572.

**MEMBERSHIP CLASS** - October 20, 11:30am to 1:00pm,  
*Wendler Middle School, Room 103*

If you would like to join Clear Water Church, attend the next membership class led by Mike Merriner, Pastor.

Lunch will be provided and there will be an opportunity to interact and ask questions. If you have any questions about this event, please email Mike Merriner at [mmerriner@gmail.com](mailto:mmerriner@gmail.com) or text/call 727.1382.



**WENDLER TEACHERS' APPRECIATION DINNER**  
October 24, 3-4pm

Each semester during student-parent-teacher conferences, we provide the teachers' meal from 3-4pm on their long day of conferences. This is one way we love, support, and appreciate the Wendler staff. Be on the lookout for crockpot sign-ups coming soon.

**BOLIVIA MISSION TRIP** - October 24 thru November 2

Clear Water Church is sending a team to work with the Lizarazu family at Camp Kewina in Cochabamba, Bolivia. This is a Bible Camp serving the kids and churches in that mountainous area of Bolivia including Cochabamba, a city about twice the size of Anchorage. You can find more about the camp and the Lizarazu family at [www.bolivianmissions.com](http://www.bolivianmissions.com).

We plan to help on a large construction project at the camp, attaching bathrooms to existing cabins that do not have any. The camp has fourteen cabins, and four still need bathrooms. There will be eight toilets, four showers, and at least four sinks. The team plan to be part of raising the walls and roofs. Clear Water Church is also sponsoring the cost of these bathrooms including whatever work we are not able to finish while we are there. There will also be other ministry opportunities including a shadow puppet show organized by Steve Gordon, and a visit to the Lizarazu's church.

The team will include Liz Paulston, Steve Gordon, Karen Adams, Jessica Adams, Brian Whitson, Rhett Whitson, Sara Smith, James Embree, and Tracie Berkland. Two men from the Anchorage Alliance Church will also be on the trip with us. The trip will last from October 24 to November 2.

Let's keep this team in our prayers for safe travel and a fruitful mission trip.

## "REASONS FOR THE FAITH" APOLOGETICS CONFERENCE

- October 29 & 30, 9am to 4pm at Alaska Bible College, Palmer
- October 30th, 6-8pm at ChangePoint, Anchorage



Learn how to engage with the modern issues of our culture and explain your faith. This event is open to anyone. For more information, and to register for free online visit [www.akbible.edu/conferences-seminars/](http://www.akbible.edu/conferences-seminars/).

Mike Merriner will be presenting "Is Jesus Down with the Doobies? Thinking Biblically about Recreational Marijuana."



**CLUB68** - Every Tuesday, 6-8pm at Lake Otis Elementary Gym  
(enter from the north entrance)

It's a night of games, friends, and Bible study for students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Invite your friends. Other adults are needed to help with Club68. Brian Whitson is leading this group. Contact him by phone or text 907.268.8659 or [brian31605@gmail.com](mailto:brian31605@gmail.com).

For the next 10 weeks Club68 will be studying the book of James and how it applies to a middle school student's life. At the end of the 10 weeks, if the student has accumulated enough points, they will be invited to join us at Get Air for a "fun night."

Points are earned the following ways:

- Being present at CLUB68 - 1 point
- Bringing a Bible - 1 point
- Reading assigned passage - 1 point for each day it is read (maximum of 5 points)
- Learning Memory verse - 3 point
- Bringing a friend - 5 point

## HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY - Every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30pm

The High School Ministry is open to any high schooler. We are looking for some men to be leaders. Contact Beck Butler at 907.244.2984 or [akd\\_o\\_glover@yahoo.com](mailto:akd_o_glover@yahoo.com).

Visit [www.clearwater.church/events](http://www.clearwater.church/events) for a schedule and meeting locations.



**YOUNG ADULT (as defined by you)** - Every Thursday  
8:30-10:30pm at the Merriner's

On October 31, the Young Adults will have a pumpkin carving contest with costumes. Come and join this awesome group. Fellowship, devotionals, food and fun. Call Mike Merriner at 727.1382 for directions.

**PRAYER GROUP** - Every Sunday, 9am at Wendler Middle School in room 132

Join others in prayer before Sunday's worship service. The group is led by Phil Dean, 240.8262.



Prayer Meeting - Nov 3  
Men's 24-Hour Getaway - Nov 15-16  
Wendler Thanksgiving Dinners - Due Nov 21 & 23

Visit [www.clearwater.church](http://www.clearwater.church) for more details

## THE BIGGER MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE



Summer is coming to an end and school has started. That means there will be a new Bigger Memory Verse Challenge for the school year.

Rules for the BIGGER challenge: Enter the monthly challenge at least five different months from September through April 2020. You must truly know at least five of the monthly verses and enter your name each of those months. Whether or not your name gets drawn for the monthly prize, you will be entered in the grand prize drawing in early May. The monthly drawing has two age categories--13 and up, and 12 and under. The BIGGER drawing in May will combine these two age categories into one for the grand prize drawing of either a \$500 airline voucher, iPad, or \$500 Amazon gift card. The grand prize drawing will take place via Facebook live in early May.

Research shows that Bible engagement is the most effective way to grow spiritually. Let's have some fun increasing the competition for the memory verse challenge each month.

### ***Congratulations to September's Memory Verse Challenge Winners***

Jeff Kee, Doug Ketterer, and Evelyn Whitson

**October's Memory Verse** is 1 John 4:10-11

The next Memory Verse Challenge will be held  
Sunday, October 27 and Thursday, October 31

*Will you be one of the contestants?*



## RECENT MINISTRY REPORT

### **WE ARE 6 YEARS OLD - September 5 & 8**

In September Clear Water Church celebrated six years of weekly services. Mike and Sabrina Merriner started the church in 2013 with support from ChangePoint. Year one averaged 80 in attendance. Six years later we average 229.

Bill Burgess, Chairman of the Board, gave an encouraging update on the state of the church. Attendance is up 13%, and financially we are healthy. Giving was down 3% last year, but we still have over \$250,000 in savings, and were thus able to execute our ministry vision, including giving 10% to other Christian ministries. (See page 8 for a list of who we supported last year.)

During our 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, six people shared testimonies (read them on page 6). Kim Burgess, Phil Dean, Andrea McCormick, and Scott Taylor got perfect scores on the Memory Verses Pop Quiz (see page 7). And we all ate tasty food prepared by Sandy & Jeff Bentz and Victoria Busig.

Join us in praying for another great ministry year!



## Testimonies from the 6th Anniversary

Burgesses reporting on their summer mission with Young Life's Beyond Malibu camp:



**Wes Burgess** - One of the kids summed up the lesson perfectly with the phrase "simple obedience" - the understanding that Jesus calls us to simply trust and obey, although we may not always understand the reasons behind his instruction.

**David Burgess** - One thing that constantly occurred to me was the way that God always gave us what we needed - even if it wasn't what we thought we needed. On one trip we were camping on a mountain ridge when a lightning storm rolled through. I'll be the first to say that a 2 AM lightning drill is a little miserable and pretty terrifying, but the guys got to see a whole different side of God's glory.



**Amy Wilson's** report was on her summer mission with Speak Out in Slovakia:

Nina asked me many hard questions on this day, and she cried many tears. At the end of our time she let me pray over her. I was not totally sure what she thought of me, or Jesus, but I was leaving it in God's hands. During the goodbye party she gave me a letter where she thanked me for giving her a new way of thinking. She said I had planted a seed in her heart, and she was not sure if it grow but she knows it is there. I was so encouraged by this and I am trusting God to send someone to water that seed.

**Phil Dean** - My friend asked, "How did you know those verses you quoted last Monday were the same Scriptures the pastor quoted in his sermon that week?" I told him I didn't know, but God did and that the prompting was from the Holy Spirit.



**Andrea McCormick** - I prayed to God and asked for help [to memorize Scripture]. Then at the end of the year, I noticed that I had memorized every Scripture and was continuing to add to that! That has been a huge gift to me. The gift is not in winning the Memory Verse Challenge but in God's reward! There have been many times in my life that I have been blessed by God's Word. It pops up in my mind at just the right moment to help me, instruct me, guide and encourage me, comfort me, and even protect me. I've also been able to use it for others when they are in need.

**Ana Rosado** - Since I began coming to Clear Water in January, I have not only gained a weekly opportunity to hear Truth as God intended it, but I have gained a family: a community of beautiful souls to laugh and explore with, who are not scared to be vulnerable and seek after God and who He has called them to be.



**DeeDee Aaronson** - I found healing [through the *Healing Journey*] that only God could bring and only because I was willing to let Him heal those deeps hurts.



## Memory Verses – POP QUIZ – Ministry Year 6

Do your best to match the reference with the Bible verses.

No looking on your phone or in a Bible!

2 Corinthians 5:17-19	—	1. Serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."
Colossians 3:1-2	—	2. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord?"
Psalms 100:4-5	—	3. Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so, the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said. Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.
John 10:9-10	—	4. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.
Matthew 7:24-25	—	5. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the Dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.
2 Peter 1:10b-11	—	6. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
Roman 8:11	—	7. Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.
Luke 2:10-11	—	8. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.
Galatians 5:22-23	—	9. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Galatians 5:13b-14	—	10. Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.
1 Peter 3:15-16	—	11. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.
Amos 5:14-15	—	12. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Answers on page 9



## **ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING - September 15**

The Annual Church Business Meeting was held Sunday, September 15, from 11:30 to noon at Wendler Middle School, and three things happened.

First, Greg Balcao, Bill Burgess, and Ken McCormick were confirmed by unanimous vote for another 3-year term as elders. (Greg Moody and Steve Gordon are in the 2nd year of their first term.)

Second, a nominating committee was formed to find elder candidates to replace Jon DeHart, who along with his wife Cassie, moved to Hawaii this summer. Leah Meyring chairs the committee. Other committee members are Victoria Busig, Phil Dean, Doug Ketterer, Dalan Merriner, and Chip Robertson.

Third, a short-term giving campaign was announced to raise funds for Club68, our new middle school ministry. The goal is to raise \$25,000, which will fully fund Club68 and provide about \$6,000 for senior high youth group this year. If you'd like to give to this campaign, please note "Club68" on your check or select that drop-down menu when giving online.



## **ON MISSION**

Clear Water Church plans to give 10% of all contributions to other faith-based organizations. In our last fiscal year (September 2018 through August 2019), we gave out \$46,000. Our support went to the following:

Acts 247  
AGUSM (A.Walter)  
Arctic Barnabas  
Covenant Youth of Alaska  
CRU  
Downtown Soup Kitchen  
Faith Christian Community Church (Shelekhov, a Russian church burned down)  
Free the Oppressed (Free Burma Rangers Vision Clinic)  
International Sports Ministries (Schaafsma's)  
Navigators (A.Fustalo)  
PlantAK  
Reaching Indians Ministry Inc (RIMI)  
University Baptist Church  
Young Life



## **JOURNEY GROUPS - "Life is better together"**

Find a group that fits your needs and get plugged in. Journey Groups are great for deepening relationships and furthering your knowledge of God and his Word.

The fall Journey Group catalog is available online at [www.clearwater.church/connect](http://www.clearwater.church/connect) or it can be picked up from the connect table at church.



## **SOCIAL MEDIA**



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Get the Clear Water Church App for Apple and Android devices. Search for “**clear water church ak**” in the Apple and Google store. It’s free. Have easy access to sermons, the memory verse, online giving, church events, the Bible, a daily Bible reading plan and more.

**Give Us Your Feedback** - What do you think about Currents, Clear Water Church’s newsletter? What would you like added? Click [here](#) and let us know. We welcome your input.

**The due date for submissions to the next edition of Currents is October 24th.**

Send articles and photos to [cwcoffice13@gmail.com](mailto:cwcoffice13@gmail.com)