

# CLEAR WATER CURRENTS

September 2019 eNewsletter



## WHAT IS GOD ASKING YOU?

A little over five years ago, Pastor Mike preached a sermon on actively living out one's faith. A good sermon – but nothing earthshaking. However, a few days later an elder from the village of Noorvik called out of the blue to ask me if I knew anybody that was doing Vacation Bible School. Their village was in need of a team to come up and help lead one the next summer (2015). This question led to me to ask Pastor Mike about the possibility of Clear Water sending a team up to lead a VBS the next summer. After all, I had some experience with helping with VBS's and felt that was something that I would feel comfortable leading. After we prayed and got back to the elder, Donna Zibell, the first Noorvik Mission team was born.

The mission has grown to include a three day camp that involves the middle schoolers and high schoolers from Noorvik – 26 of them this year. One of the changes that we hoped would help develop a vision for leadership, was to have the youth camp prior to VBS this year. So, our team of eight Clear Water leaders spent three days camping out on the Kobuk River using the time there to build relationships and to teach some of the biblical examples of discipleship as well as applications that brought each lesson home.

As a result, God blessed us with almost twenty Noorvik youth helpers when it came time to do the VBS sessions. Not only did we see God moving in the hearts of our young kids, but the older kids were actually seeing themselves in a mentoring role with them. The numbers of kids that came to VBS varied between 65 to 70. On the third day we presented the gospel message – that went well.

The challenge that I have for you is to ask what it is that God wants you to be doing. And then do it. With all of your heart, mind, soul, and strength. And joyfully!

Greg Balcao  
907.310.7026  
[gbalcao@gmail.com](mailto:gbalcao@gmail.com)

## Noorvik Mission Trip - July



## Around the Bend

### Thanks to Joshua Adams

Joshua quickly became an endearing member of the Clear Water family and served as our worship leader these last two and a half years. He is now headed back to Texas to be a greater support to his family during his dad's illness and to pursue a Texas girl. Thank you, Josh, for using your talents with us. We will miss you!

### What will worship look like now?

I am excited to introduce Sofia Swan as our new worship leader. Sofia will lead worship twice a month and coordinate our bands. On the weeks Sofia is not leading, she will schedule guest worship leaders.

Sofia is a daughter-in-law to Hank and Darlene Swan who attend Clear Water Church. She is also Joshua Adam's friend. Believe it or not, Sofia led worship the past two and a half years at the church, in Texas, where Joshua was the worship leader prior to moving to Alaska. She "just happened" (said with a smile) to move to Alaska last week. Her husband, Caleb Swan, is ChangePoint's new high school director.



I cannot help but see her as God's provision. Welcome, Sofia!

--Mike Merriner



**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).

**HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY KICKOFF - Wednesday**  
**September 4, 6-8pm at Narda Butler's home.**  
Call 205-6987 for address.

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).



**HAPPY 6TH ANNIVERSARY CLEAR WATER CHURCH**  
**Thursday, September 5, 6-8:15pm and Sunday, September 8,**  
**10am-12:30pm at Wendler Middle School**

We're celebrating with worship, testimonies, photo booth, and food, and praying for the Lord's will as we kick off fall ministries. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Main dish and drinks will be provided.

**ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING**  
**Sunday, September 15, 11:30am Wendler Middle School**

Members\* are asked to attend, but everyone is invited. In addition to some administrative announcements, members will select by vote an elder-nominating committee to search for an elder to replace Jon DeHart.



\*Members are those who have been baptized, attended a New Members Class (or its equivalent) and who have signed a Confession of Faith with Clear Water Church. If you have any questions please talk with Mike Merriner, James Embree or Brian Whitson.



**JOURNEY GROUPS - Kick-off September 22**

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 will be available at our Anniversary event, September 5th and 8th.

**WELCOME LUNCH - Sunday, September 22, Noon to 1:30pm**  
**Greg and Jill Moody's Home**

Are you new to Clear Water Church? Want to meet others who are new also? Want to learn more about Clear Water in a small setting? Want to meet our pastors, elders and staff? Then you are invited to lunch with a small group. Contact pastor Mike Merriner (call or text 907.727.1382)





**PRAYER & WORSHIP NIGHT - September 29, 7pm.**  
**Location TBA**

“But you, dear friends, as you build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, expecting the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ for eternal life.” (Jude vv 20-21, HCSB)  
Praying together builds up our faith, drawing us closer to the Lord and each other. Let’s set aside an hour to humbly go before the Lord.

**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, 907.240.8262.



- Welcome Lunch - **Oct. 13**
- Membership Class - **Oct 20**
- Wendler Teacher Appreciation Dinner - **Oct 23**
- Young Adult Connect - Costumes & Pumpkin Carving - **Oct 31**

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

**Recent Ministry Report**

**Global Leadership Summit - August 8-9**

Over fifteen from Clear Water spent two days sharpening their leadership skills. A practical take away was looking at how to maximize our resources for the greatest outcome--"bend the curve!"



## TABLE for 8 - August



"Tables of 8" are hosted by an individual in their home. The host provides a meal for about eight people. The purpose is to meet, connect and get to know one another. Clear Water Church plans to do this event over the next couple of months.

In August, we had seven "Tables of 8", about 60 people. The feedback was it was great!



Contact James Embree (call or text 907.315-3803 or [jamesembree@gmail.com](mailto:jamesembree@gmail.com)) if you are interested in hosting or attending.

## Parents Park Day - August 29

This was our last Park Day for this summer. We had great conversation and connection, parents and kids alike! Thanks to all who joined us at the park this summer. Happy fall!!!



Wyatt Wade (parents-Carly and Jed Wade) with Katie and Christian Gibson.

Levi Wade (parents-Carly and Jed Wade)



Wyatt Wade and Christian Gibson



Christian and Katie Gibson and Wyatt Wade



## Back2School Party - August 15

Clear Water Church hosted our 5<sup>th</sup> Back2School Party for Wendler Middle School students, parents and teachers. There was a photo booth, activities, and food. We had over 50 volunteers to cook, serve food, lead activities and helped clean up. Thank you to everyone who made this event a big success. Thank you, Steve Gordon, and his helpers who cooked the pulled pork. Ardy Robertson who made and donated all of the cupcakes. And thank you Kyle Wilson for leading this event.



## High School Students & Parents Canoe Trip - August 16-18

Twelve high schoolers and parents floated down the Little Susitna River, did some fishing, enjoyed the out of doors. There were time for devotionals and soul thinking, memories, and great connecting. Mike Merriner and Jeff Wood led this outing. Mike said "There were only a few silvers and I caught one of them".



## Testimony except from Aubrey Merriner

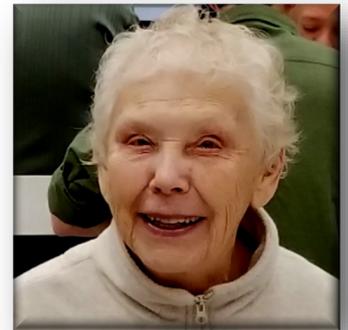


“I worry about a lot of things a lot. Over the years, the only thing that really gives me peace and help me through these challenges is God. Some challenges have been going on for years, yet He still gets me through them and strengthens me so that I would be ready for my next challenge. My favorite verse since I was little is Philippians 4:13 – I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

~ August 25, 2019

## Care Concerns

Marge Olson is home from the hospital in hospice care. Feel free to call, 333.5868 or visit.



## Congratulations



Abby Schneck and Eric Bronczyk

Wed on July 20th



Kristie Gavitt and Daniel Crumpacker

Wed on July 21st

## The BIGGER Memory Verse Challenge is kicking off



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 5 different months from September through April 2020. You must truly know at least 5 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 go out to August's  
Memory Verse Challenge*

Aubrey Merriner, Evelyn Wood, Kim and Bill Burgess

**September's Memory Verse** is [Psalm 33:3-5](#)

The next Memory Verse Challenge will be held  
Thursday, September 26 and Sunday, September 29th  
*Will you be one of the contestants?*

## Social Media

 [www.clearwater.church](http://www.clearwater.church)

 [Facebook.com/clearwaterchurchak](https://www.facebook.com/clearwaterchurchak)

 Follow us on [Instagram](#)

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 September 24th.**

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