

Transitions

Kevin Miller, President



Kevin Miller

It's hard to believe that another year has already rolled by. About this time last year, the conference made some transitions. As I looked into the future, I was not so sure what to expect, but a statement by Ellen White encouraged me (and still does). She said, "We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."¹ As we look at a world seeming to spiral out of control, let us not forget how Christ has led us and courageously continue to move forward.

To start with, the Lord has guided us to concentrate on three priorities for the conference. Due to limited resources and manpower, we pled with the Lord for His leading. He answered by focusing us on personal discipleship, the Arctic Mission Adventure (AMA) ministry, and youth and young adults. After a year, the blossoms are beginning to form for the fruit the Lord is growing.

Personal discipleship is always a spiritual struggle as the enemy of souls tries to distract, distress, and derail our experience with Jesus. This year was no exception. But through the challenges, I have personally witnessed amazing faith choices and victories over the enemy. The Northside Church, without a pastor and on short notice, took on a prophecy seminar series that yielded 27 baptisms. The baptisms for

the whole conference for the first quarter eclipsed over 40 people accepting the gospel and joining local congregations. We praise the Lord for these brothers and sisters. Jesus is ever powerful, even in the 21st Century.

AMA encompasses native ministries, the Arctic Mission Volunteers, and radio ministries. On this front, we had our first Native Ministries Spiritual Leadership Workshop. The workshop is designed to provide spiritual leadership training in the context of village life and native culture. We've added some new folks to the mission volunteer ranks and we're thankful for their adventuresome spirit and heart for the Lord and His people in the Last Frontier. The Lord may be opening some radio opportunities as well. The conference is receiving guidance and potential resources from Adventist World Radio. We're quite excited about these unfolding opportunities.

Our youth and young adults are so critical to our church and life. Even more important is their recognition of Christ Jesus in their lives and how that impacts their lives with love, joy, and peace. Pastor Tobin Dodge led out in youth camps and it became clear that his skills, talents, and experience were a fit for the conference youth director. At the same time, Rod Rau, a long time Alaska teacher, decided to retire so the conference invited him to help with

Continued on Page 9

Alyeskan

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Inside:



Evangelism—Alaska's Heartbeat	Page 2
Where Are We Now?.....	Page 3
...Art	Page 4
Welcome New Educators!.....	Page 5
Your Conference Ministerial Team.....	Page 6
Long-Term Missionaries Leave Shungnak	Page 7
Alaska Conference Executive Committee Minutes	Page 8
Conference Home Gets A "Face Lift"	Page 10



Evangelism—Alaska's Heartbeat

Quentin Purvis, Vice President of Administration

Evangelism should be the heartbeat of every Christian who has been born again. The very last words that Christ gave to his disciples were, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:18-20

The reason we exist as a church in Alaska is to preach the Three Angels Message. It doesn't take much to see that we are in the last hours of earth's history. The message that is found in the word of God promises to change a person's life and prepare them to be ready for our Lord's return. These life changing words must swell to a loud cry reaching every village, town and city in the state of Alaska. From Ketchikan to Barrow, Gambell to Tok, the pastors and Bible workers of the Alaska Conference are dedicated to spread the good news of our soon coming Savior.

The year started off with a huge surge of baptisms as a result of evangelism. To date, we have had 69 souls coming into the Adventist church through baptism and profession of faith along with nine rebaptisms. We pray that the Alaska church family will grow even greater before the year is complete, as our Samoan brothers and sisters are conducting a 15-day revival

this fall. Evangelist Brian McMahon, who conducted a last minute series in Anchorage this past March, will be returning in early 2018 to hold meetings in Fairbanks. We ask for your prayers that these endeavors reach our friends and neighbors. Evangelism plans are beginning to come into my office from our churches, but not as many as I would like to see. We will be forming an evangelism committee in the coming months that will lay out a three-year plan.

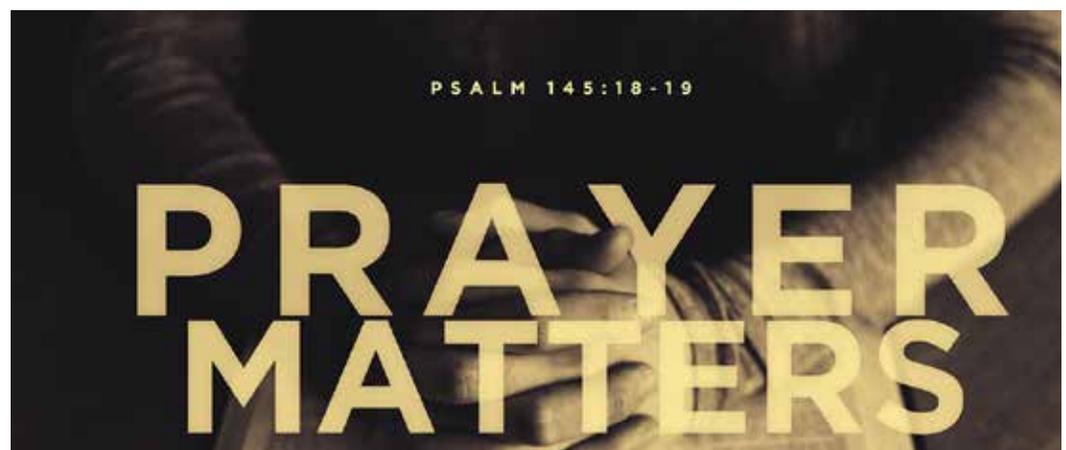
But friends, evangelism is not just inviting well-known Adventist speakers to conduct high profile meetings in a community. It is the day-to-day contact that we as Adventists and representatives of Christ have with our friends and neighbors. A kind act, developing a friendship, extending an invitation to a friend to join you for church or simply adding someone to your prayer list are all ways to evangelize. Our schools also play a part in this outreach; why not tell a friend with school aged children about the opportunity for quality education in a safe, Christian environment? If each church would reach out to their community and bring in two souls for the kingdom, we could have a total of 100 baptism a year. What a great goal for 2018!

In a letter that Ellen White wrote in 1903 she says, “To us also the commission is given. We are bidden to go forth as Christ's

Continued on Page 9



Quentin Purvis



ALASKA PRAYER TEAM CALL TO PRAYER | FRIDAYS, 7-8 pm

Teleconference Prayer Meeting Open to all! Join fellow believers each Friday for prayer and praise.

Call 1-800-977-8002 | Access Code 77861556 | Enter "#" | Say your name | Enter "#"

Where Are We Now?

Jim Jensen, Vice President of Finance

Through July 31, tithe for the conference is down 6.5%. The original 2017 budget was based on 95% of the 2016 regular tithe. On June 11, the Alaska Conference Executive Committee voted to reduce that budget an additional \$197,000.

Many of you are feeling the effects of Alaska's recession. Everything that I am seeing and reading leads me to believe that it will still be a year or two before things pick up. I want to thank each one of you who faithfully gives tithe, offerings and time to help the mission of the local church.

God does not need our money, but has chosen to put his assets in our hands to manage. If you have not committed to set aside a portion of your income for tithe and offering, I would like to challenge you to try God. I believe that God gives us the opportunity to use his assets to change our own lives and hearts as much as to

help change other people's lives. Both are important.

I do want to emphasize that stewardship is first a commitment of our heart to Christ. It is not just about money, but is equally the stewardship of our health, our time and our relationships with others. The reason that I am a Seventh-day Adventist is that I believe, although our church is not perfect, that it offers the most complete package in all of these areas.

To support stewardship efforts, there are a few items that each church will be receiving. One is a 16-page booklet, *7 Great Facts About Stewardship*. The second is a bookmark which speaks on stewardship from a biblical perspective. The last item is a DVD with 10 Stewardship spots. Each feature is one-to-two minutes in length and can be used for training, Sabbath worship or shared via social media.



Jim Jensen



...Art

Tobin Dodge, Youth-Young Adult & AMA Director

I love a variety of color—a vivid rainbow splashed across the sky after a rain; a new box of colored pencils; the changing of leaves in the fall before the dawn of winter... No matter where you look in nature, our lives are filled with vibrant colors. This amazing variety is a special gift God has given us in the variance of life. Most of us visually celebrate the variety of multiple colors in nature, yet we are given the privilege to experience this with each other in our churches and communities. Whether you see the beauty in the diversity or not, Biblically speaking, we are called to embrace it and our place in the colored pencil box. Romans 12 calls all of us to be “RENEWED”.

VARIETY IN OUR GIFTEDNESS

Everyone is needed to make up the rainbow of spiritual gifts, the needed variety for beauty in the church.

Why do I talk about color, variety and diversity? Here in Alaska, we have a variety of people just like nature and our territory. We see the creativity of God all around us, yet at times we forget that same principle when it comes to how God created us. He created us perfectly in need of community. Community with Him and with each other.

As a church, it is important that we see the need to embrace our God-given

diversity as we work, minister and build God’s kingdom. Our Spiritual gifts, God born talents and even our skills are called upon for His service. In the church we need to see and validate that in everyone, but especially in our young people. We need to help mentor and grow in them the vision for using their talents for Jesus and not the world. We need the best that we have to offer in God’s service, not in service for the other side. God needs gifted cooks, talented musicians, intelligent scientists, capable teachers, competent pilots, and a host more. These young people that are passionate about life and the world need to be empowered by the church to use their gifts and talents for Jesus.

You and I have been called by the Lord Himself to serve where we are, with the gifts we have so that others may hear the “GOOD NEWS” of Jesus, and specifically the unique message Seventh-day Adventists present with Christ at the center.

Consider this: your church needs you no matter how young you are. God used Samuel as a boy to speak truth, He used a boy to be king, Jesus fed thousands with a boy’s meager lunch. What do you have that He will use if you let Him?



Tobin Dodge



Are you a young adult, age 18-35, who wants to energize your church? Plan to attend the Alaska Conference Young Adult Convocation.

The convocation is not sitting and listening while someone talks. Rather, it is small, interactive round-table discussions on how to become more involved in church ministry.

Facilitated by Pastor Tobin Dodge, Young Adult Ministries Director for the Alaska Conference, discover ways to join or start new ministries in your church or community on topics that today's young adults face.

Please RSVP at alaskainfo@ac.npuc.org if you plan to attend.

young adult convocation

OCTOBER 20-21 • ALASKA CONFERENCE OFFICE

Welcome New Educators!

Rod Rau, Education Director



Once again, the “Last Frontier” has lured new teachers to the far north. This year four new teachers have left their homes in the Lower 48 and headed across the country to Alaska.

Cynthia Lewis, a recent graduate from Walla Walla University, is teaching grades 1-8 at Juneau Adventist Christian School. Cynthia, along with her husband Alex, arrived in Juneau during the month of May in order to get a head start on the school year.



Shelley Taylor left her home in Salem, Oregon and arrived in Palmer on the last day of July. Shelley is responsible for teaching music in grades 3-12; grades 7-12 choir, and several classes in grades 5-10 at Amazing Grace Academy (AGA).



Louis Melchor, along with his wife Laura and son Abel, came to AGA from Tulsa, Oklahoma. Louis spent his high school years in Montana and is ready to get back to mountains and trees instead of the flat lands of Oklahoma. Louis is teaching several of the math and science classes for grades 7-12; PE, and Bible.



Catherine Parris comes to Alaska from New York. Catherine made the 4,500 mile trek across the country with her cat and two dogs as traveling companions. Catherine is teaching math



and science classes for grades 7-12 and Computer Technology at AGA.

It is a privilege to welcome these four individuals to the Alaska Conference teaching staff. They will be joining twelve very talented and remarkable teachers whose supreme goal is to introduce Christ, his love and forgiveness to every student seated in their classrooms each day.

In addition to the new teaching staff, there have been a few changes within our schools:

Anchorage Junior Academy: The teaching team this year is Beki Cadwallader (Pre-K & K), Kim Purvis (Grades 1-2), Janice Enquist (Grades 3-4) and Principal Darné King (Grades 5-8)

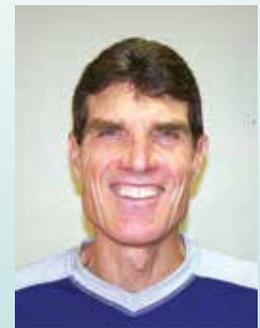
Amazing Grace Academy: AGA has a new secretary, Angela Carlson, joining the team of Dane Bailey, Principal (Grades 5-6), and teachers Kerri Thomason (Pre-K-K), Missy Harris (Grades 1-2), Carol Woodward (Grades 3-4), and Grades 7-12 teachers Louis Melchor, Shelley Taylor, Rick Jordan and Catherine Parris.

Dillingham Adventist School: Volunteer Laura Armstrong (Pre-K-K) is assisting head teacher Sueal Cunningham (Grades 1-8).

Golden Heart Christian School: Head teacher Rosie McDaniel (Grades 1-8) continues to lead out with assistance from aide Cindy Dasher.

Sitka Adventist School: We also welcome back head teacher Kallie McCutcheon (Grades 1-8) who took last year off to spend with new son Rigel.

Please continue to keep our teachers and students in prayer.



Rod Rau

2017-2018 OPENING ENROLLMENT

Amazing Grace Academy	111	Golden Heart Christian School	9
Anchorage Junior Academy	33	Juneau Adventist Christian School	8
Dillingham Adventist School	20	Sitka Adventist School	5

Based on September 2017 Opening Reports

Your Conference Ministerial Team

Steve Evenson, Ministerial Director

The conference is blessed to have a strong, talented team of pastors leading out in our churches and ministering to members. We have always faced the challenge of ministering throughout the state—from urban cities to arctic Alaska—which requires the majority of our pastors to oversee two, and sometimes even three, churches. This means time away from family and establishing church leaders to step in when the pastor cannot be there. Here is your pastoral team and the districts they serve:



Steve Evenson



Chad Angasan
Seminary Student



Carl Butler
Eagle River & Wasilla



Ionatana Neufeldt
The 2nd Mile & Samoan



Leon Ringering
Nome, Gambell & Savoonga



Nick Clark
Homer & Kenai



Jeff Coleman
Palmer



David Shin
Hillside O'Malley



Nathan Stearman
Juneau & Sitka



George Dronen*
Dillingham & Togiak



Steve Evenson
Barrow, Galena & Fairbanks



Robert Stauffer*
Northside



Don West
Community & Spanish



Jim Kincaid*
Delta Junction & North Pole



Kyoung Chul Lee
Korean & Talkeetna

In addition to our ministerial staff, we are fortunate to have dedicated, self-supporting bi-vocational pastors helping to spread the gospel:



Edmore Mangena
Glennallen & Valdez



Adrian Neacsu
Craig & Ketchikan



Don Lee Jr.
Tok



Charles Meigs
Wrangell



Noel Wilton
Petersburg

**Interim Pastors*

Long-Term Missionaries Leave Shungnak

Brenda Campbell Johnson, Communications Director

After almost seven years serving as AMA volunteers in the village of Shungnak, Anthony (Tony) and Airen Sherman, and their children Hezekiah and Abigail, have made the decision to leave the community. Tony and Airen arrived in Shungnak in October 2010 and during their time there have made invaluable progress in re-establishing an Adventist presence. The Shermans have largely been self-supporting missionaries with Tony's employment as the community health worker for the village.

When they first moved to Shungnak, Tony and Airen were living in the conference-owned parsonage which required numerous improvements; the small church there was useable. The church and parsonage in Shungnak had been empty for about 30

years when Tony & Airen moved there to renew the work. The parsonage was a one-room 16 x 16 sq. ft. cabin. The floor was falling out so Tony crawled underneath and braced it enough to make it liveable. After almost three years and without all the funds in place, in 2013 the conference stepped out in faith and built a new parsonage for them next to the church. In 2015, the conference was able to complete needed improvements to the church so that now both buildings are functional and ready for the harsh arctic winters.

Shungnak lies on the banks of the Kobuk River in the Brooks Range. The name of the village is derived from an Eskimo word which means jade, a stone found extensively throughout the surrounding hills. Its residents rely on fishing, hunting and trapping, and have a strong arts and crafts industry producing baskets, masks, mukluks, parkas, mittens, etc. The village of approximately 270 residents are sure to miss them. Please pray that the work continues in this tiny community as the Shermans move to their next adventure.



Tony Sherman with children Hezekiah and Abigail



JOIN A REMOTE SABBATH SCHOOL CLASS!

Sabbath Mornings at 9:30 a.m.

1-800-920-7487 | Access Code: 53383143#

Alaska may be the Last Frontier, but you need not feel isolated or disconnected. Make one toll-free call and join a lively Sabbath School class! Facilitated by Alaskans Richard Dennis of Chistochina and Paul Kildal in Glennallen, the class follows the weekly lesson plan. Why not give it a try next Sabbath morning??



Quentin Purvis

Present	Kevin Miller, Jim Jensen, Steve Evenson, Edmore Mangena, Don West, Joe Chythlook, Ryan Woehler, Elsa Coronado, Warren Libby
Absent	Quentin Purvis, Todd Ervin, Matthew Sandvik, David King, Alice Moncher, Tau Siaki, Steve Lewis
NPUC Representative	John Loor, NPUC Vice President of Administration
Guest	Camp Tuk Operating Committee Representatives Linda Carleton, Joe Koliadko, Jerilyn Burtch
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS	
President's Report	Devotion by Kevin Miller. Noted the 48 baptisms and Professions of Faith during the first quarter as exceptionally good compared to prior years
Agenda (06-52)	Voted to accept agenda for June 11, 2017 meeting adding Camp Tuk Operating Board report and NPUC Report
Minutes (06-53)	Voted to approve the January 21, 2017 Minutes with no changes noted
Transfer (06-54)	Voted to transfer a member from the Alaska Conference Church
CONFERENCE REPORTS	
Camp Tuk Report (06-55)	Voted to transfer operations to the Camp Tuk Operating Board effective July 1, 2017.
(06-56)	Voted for the conference to maintain operations of the boats at present and that funds previously included in subsidy for boats be retained by the conference.
(06-57)	Voted that the necessary items given at the 2016 constituency had been fulfilled and this removes the potential selling of Camp Tuk. All expenditures in excess of \$10,000 would need to continue to be voted by the Executive Committee.
Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) (06-58)	Voted that exempt employees asking for FMLA would use all but one week of vacation time concurrent with their FMLA leave. The remainder of the leave would be paid time off. Requests in excess of 12 weeks of FMLA will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
Lilya Wagner Proposal (06-59)	Voted to accept Lilya Wagner's offer of an intern to help with fundraising for Arctic Mission Adventure. Salary would be paid by Philanthropic Services. Travel expenses paid by the Alaska Conference. This is a one-year internship with option for one additional year.
Treasury Report (06-60)	Voted to accept the April financial statement as presented, subject to audit.
(06-61)	Voted to amend the 2017 budget as presented. Reduction totals \$197,150. FYI: Dillingham parsonage repairs FYI: Anchorage Community potential property purchase
NPUC Report	John Loor reported on the progress being made towards the vision and strategic plan for the Union. Attendance for Alaska Conference was 43.2% of membership; attendance for NPUC as a whole was 40.8% of membership.
Camp Staff Report (06-62)	Voted to accept the summer camp staff as presented, subject to background checks.
Alaska Executive Committee Replacements (06-63)	Voted to add Nathan Stearman and Melissa Harris to the conference executive committee. They will replace Todd Ervin and Matthew Sandvik who have accepted calls to other conferences.
Teacher Contracts (06-64)	Voted to accept the recommendation of the K-12 Board for teacher contracts
Eagle River/Wasilla (06-65)	Voted to ask Carl Butler to become a full-time pastor for district effective July 1, 2017.



Dillingham/Togiak (06-66)	Voted to ask George Dronen to be the part-time retired interim pastor for the district effective August 1, 2017.
Delta Junction/North Pole (06-67)	Voted to ask Jim Kincaid to be the part-time retired interim pastor for the district effective September 1, 2017.
Camp Tuk Board Member (06-68)	Voted to ask Richard Dennis to serve on the Camp Tuk Board as representative of the Alaska Conference Church.
	Motion to Adjourn

Evangelism—Alaska's Heartbeat

Cont. from Page 2

messengers, to teach, instruct, and persuade men and women, to urge upon their attention the word of life. And to us also the assurance of Christ's abiding presence is given. Whatever the difficulties with which we may have to contend, whatever the trials we may have to endure, the gracious promise is always ours, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."—Manuscript 24, 1903. {Ev 15.2}

Let's continue reaching out to our friends, loved ones and the community as we share the love of Jesus and the Three Angels Message, because evangelism is more than public meetings.

Transitions

Cont. from Page 1

overseeing the education piece of this puzzle. We look forward to the leadership in this vital area of our conference.

As we look behind us, we see how Jesus has led and continues to lead. We have challenges to overcome and battles with the enemy to engage in, but He has "not given us a spirit of fear but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" 2 Tim 1:7. We can look forward to the future with hope and anticipation for what Jesus will do in and through us.

¹ White, Ellen. Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White, 204. Egwwritings.org/?ref=en_CET.7.4¶+11.13 (accessed August 22, 2017).

Did you lose something at 2017 Southcentral Camp Meeting or at Alaska Camps?

Contact the conference at 907-346-1004.

We just might have what you are looking for!



FREE for churches in the North American Division. Plan to host this dynamic, documentary-style event. This short series will center on a seldom-told story that played a pivotal role in Martin Luther's success. A Pale Horse Rides will be the perfect event for your community. This is one series you won't want to miss!

Conference Home Gets A "Face Lift"

Brenda Campbell Johnson, Communications Director

The Alaska Conference has been blessed to have Pastor Howard Williams and his wife Charleen lead the efforts of a much-needed remodel of the office which had not been updated since the conference opened in the early 1980's. The purpose of the remodel was three fold: 1) to have a warm, inviting reception area designed to welcome visitors and members, where they could sit and enjoy the wall mounted fireplace in comfortable chairs, 2) to emphasize the work in Alaska with displays highlighting Arctic Mission Adventure and Summer Camps, and 3) to share the conference goal to "go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..." (Matt 28:19), with the text displayed on a main wall for all to see.

The first phase of the remodel encompassed the office lobby, large conference room and the offices of the president, vice president of administration and their secretary. Because these areas are the most visited, they were the first to be

updated to make visitors feel comfortable and welcome. Phase II of the remodel will be accomplished a few years down the road and will include the remaining offices on the upper level. In tandem with the upstairs renovations and remodeling, guest rooms were updated as well.

Some may be curious as to how the conference was able to afford these improvements. Well, God is good! He gives us wisdom and understanding to use His blessings wisely and prepare for the upkeep and maintenance of facilities. Accordingly, the conference set aside a small amount of non-tithe funds and over time, monies grew sufficiently to fund the repairs and remodeling (along with a direct donation or two from our church family).

The conference invites local members and extended church family to visit the conference office or stay in one of the guest rooms when you find yourself in Anchorage and see our "face lift".



Office Lobby



Office Lobby



Guest Room



Guest Room



President's Office

ARCTIC MISSION ADVENTURE

ALEKNAGIK AMBLER BARROW BETHEL GAMBELL

MISSION

TO DISCIPLE THE ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE OF
NORTHERN AND NORTHWESTERN ALASKA

KOTZEBUE SAVOONGA SELAWIK SHUNGNAC TOGIAK



*Alaska Native Ministries
presents*

THE ART OF CHURCH

Arctic Leadership Training

*Leadership Training
for the next generation of
Alaska Native Leaders*

October 13 & 14, 2017

Alaska Conference Office

with



Steve Huey

*Natives Ministries Ministry Assistant
North Pacific Union Conference*



Kevin Miller

*President
Alaska Conference*



Tobin Dodge

*Arctic Missions Director
Alaska Conference*



David Shin

*Pastor, Hillside O'Malley
Alaska Conference*



Quentin Purvis

*Vice President, Administration
Alaska Conference*



Jim Kincaid

*Pastor, Delta Junction & North Pole
Alaska Conference*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, October 13

- 1:00 pm The Art of Church
- 2:00 pm The Art of Leadership in
the Community
- 3:00 pm The Art of Outreach
- 4:00 pm The Art of Moving
Forward
- 5:00 pm Supper
- 6:00 pm The Art of Sharing
Christ

Sabbath, October 14

- 10:00 am Northside Church
- 12:30 pm Potluck at Northside
- 2:00 pm Art of Church Spiritual
Expressions
- 4:30 pm Alaska Native Hospital
Outreach
- 6:00 pm Supper
- 7:00 pm Vespers

Sunday, October 15

- 10:00 am AMA Board Meeting



QUESTIONS? Contact the Alaska Conference at 346-1004 or
email alaskainfo@ac.npuc.org

Alyeskan

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WINTER 2018		SPRING 2018	COMING UP
<p>January 1 <i>Closed for New Years</i></p> <p>January 15 <i>Closed for MLK Jr Day</i></p> <p>January 25 <i>K-12 Board of Education</i></p> <p>January 26 <i>Arctic Mission Training</i></p> <p>January 27 & 28 <i>Elders Training</i></p> <p>January 28 <i>Alaska Executive Committee</i></p>	<p>February 1-4 <i>Pastors & Teachers Meetings</i></p> <p>February 19 <i>Closed for Presidents Day</i></p> <p>February 23-25 <i>Nome Camp Meeting</i></p> <p>March 9-11 <i>Bristol Bay Camp Meeting</i></p> <p>March 23-25 <i>Bethel Camp Meeting</i></p>	<p>April 20-22 <i>Youth Prayer Conference (ages 13-18)</i></p> <p>May 31 <i>k-12 Board of Education</i></p> <p>June 3 <i>Alaska Executive Committee</i></p> <p>May 25-27 <i>Pathfinder Camporee @ Pioneer Peak Camp (Palmer)</i></p> <p>May 28 <i>Closed for Memorial Day</i></p> <p>June 15-17 <i>Interior Camp Meeting</i></p> <p>June 24-July 1 <i>Alaska Camps: Polaris*</i></p> <p><i>*Alaska Camps dates are subject to change</i></p>	<p>July <i>Alaska Camps at Tuk: Juniors & Teen xTreme</i></p> <p><i>Young Adult Retreat @ Camp Tuk: July 5-7 (ages 18-35)</i></p> <p><i>Men's Retreat: July 13-15</i></p> <p><i>Southcentral Camp Meeting: July 17-21</i></p> <p>August <i>Southeast Camp Meeting @ Vank Island</i></p> <p><i>Alaska Camps at Lorraine</i></p> <p><i>Teachers Meetings</i></p> <p>September <i>K-10 Board of Education</i></p> <p><i>Alaska Executive Committee</i></p>