



Kasilof Community Church

Issue 40
December 2012

Table of Contents

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Alpha for prisons | 2 |
| “Yes Virginia” | 3 |
| KCC Sports | 4 |
| Quilt Sunday | 6 |
| Be Not Afraid | 7 |
| None of us know | 8 |
| Baseball fund-raiser | 10 |
| Angel tree | 13 |
| Authority of Faith | 14 |
| 1-A-Nother Party | 17 |
| Pillars with Roots | 18 |
| Holiday Stollen | 22 |
| KCC Baptisms | 24 |

I recently spent a number of days trying to figure out why my old snowplow truck was running so rough. Frustrating for sure. Let me ask you something: would you drive to Anchorage on a cold winter day if your vehicle failed to start the day before, yet without any repairs, it started today. Many of you would answer, “No,” citing the fact that it’s just too risky. You know, we all make decisions based on calculated risk, for example, choosing when to pull out on a busy highway. One of the most important decisions anyone will ever make involves what to do with the Bible. It kind of boils down to one of two conclusions.the Bible is either just a book of fables or it’s what it claims to be, the word of God preserved for mankind. Some folks, however, believe the Bible is the word of God, but they have concluded that man has introduced error into the Scriptures. Therefore, they pick and choose which parts they think are true and worthwhile. In order to do this, they have to believe that God allowed His Scriptures to be tampered with in a way that renders them nearly irrelevant. It really doesn’t make sense, does it?

Back to calculated risk. Let’s say the Bible really is a book of fables, but you believe it to be true. At the end of your time here on earth, you will simply cease to exist, having attempted to live your life around principals such as treating others the way you wanted to be treated. Not much of a risk there, is it. On the other hand, what happens if the Bible really is true, but you and I reject it? We leave God no choice, do we, if we will not accept His gift of life. So, if you have concluded the Bible is true and inerrant, how has it impacted your life? Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as the realization of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. We are told in Scripture that God rewards people of faith by granting them eternal life in His presence. In this case, the faith that He speaks of requires that you and I believe that a virgin gave birth to the Son of God, Immanuel, God with us. Unfortunately, even in His own land and among His own people, He was not accepted. But to all who did believe in Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God. Do you believe this? It is a calculated risk, think about it.

Alpha for Prisons and Re-Entry

November 1, 2012

Greetings dear friend:

Please receive this letter as an appeal, not from me, but on behalf of those who are unable to make the appeal directly—prisoners. I accepted the volunteer position as Director and Chaplain for the Wildwood Re-Entry Initiative June 1, 2012.

Alpha USA is volunteer staffed and locally funded at each location. There are reentry program in prisons all across the US. The Wildwood Initiative is the first in Alaska; and, came about through a joint venture between the Alaska Department of Corrections and Alpha for Prisons & Re-Entry. The DOC does not fund the program; and only provides space and prisoner participants. The Alpha Mission is to work cooperatively with like minded faith-based and community organizations and the Alaska DOC to facilitate Re-Entry strategies, programs and services for ex-offenders returning to their communities changed. Participation is voluntary.

Guiding Scripture: Matthew 25:35-40

"...Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, you have don it unto Me."

This information comes to you at this time as the result of a sizeable matching grant to Alpha USA that will double all donations received before November 30, 2012. You may give a one-time gift or join individuals who are giving monthly. Please prayerfully consider making a donation.

Make checks payable to Alpha USA Prisons. Enter Wildwood on the Memo line. The address on the envelope:

Alpha USA
2275 Half Day Road, Suite 185
Bannockburn, IL 60015
Attn: Development/Diane Duffy

You will receive a tax-deductible receipt from Alpha for each donation.

All funds contributed to the Re-Entry Program will be utilized solely in support of this specific program. I am a State Retiree; and my fixed income is sufficient for me personally.

The men in the program and I deeply appreciate your support.

May God bless you and yours.

Stan Wells.

Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

Eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of New York's Sun, and the quick response was printed as an unsigned editorial Sept. 21, 1897. The work of veteran newsman Francis Pharcellus Church has since become history's most reprinted newspaper editorial, appearing in part or whole in dozens of languages in books, movies, and other editorials, and on posters and stamps.

"DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old. "Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. "Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.' "Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus? "VIRGINIA O'HANLON. "115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET."

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

KCC Sports Report

Kasilof Community Church continues to contribute in a significant way to local high school athletics; now we will have one of our own to follow at the college level.

It was recently announced that Kaillee Skjold had committed to play basketball at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, home of the Nanooks. She was offered a 4-year scholarship to become a lady-Nanook. When asked why she chose UAF, Kaillee responded, "It was mostly because of their academic program." Kaillee will be majoring in emergency management, and hopes to also earn a minor in fire science and EMT training. The emergency management degree would help prepare her for work such as a coast guard officer or fire chief, or in a position dealing with disaster preparedness. That said, Kaillee sees herself eventually being a paramedic.



Kaillee was courted by numerous basketball programs, including UAA, George Fox University (Newburg, OR), Whitworth (Spokane, WA), and Emory (South Carolina). Beside the strong academic program, she settled on UAF basketball for a couple reasons. First, it is a DII school, meaning they can offer more in the way of scholarships for athletes, and second because she knew the coach and was excited to play for her. UAF's coach is Cody Burgess, who is the 11th head coach in women's basketball history at UAF. She enters her third season as head coach with over ten years of combined playing and coaching experience in women's basketball, including three seasons at power forward for the Nanooks in 2002-2005. Kaillee said she hasn't had a lot of experience playing for a woman coach, but is excited to be playing for Coach Burgess. Finally, Kaillee knows a couple of the girls currently on the UAF roster, and they had a positive influence on her decision.

But, before her college career begins, there is still her senior year of basketball to play for Soldotna. This will be Kaillee's third year playing round-ball for So-Hi

and she has been a team leader each year. In addition, her volleyball team just finished a very successful season, winning the region tournament. At the state playoffs, So-Hi lost their first game against the previous state championship by only two points in the fifth game. It doesn't get any closer than that. After basketball, Kaillee will finish her high school athletic career by running the 400m and 800m events this spring for So-Hi track and field.

Congratulations Kaillee, it's nice to see all your hard work paying off. And, Go Nanooks!

For more on UAF women's basketball visit their website:

<http://www.alaskananooks.com/index.aspx?path=wball&tab=womensbasketball>

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Kailee isn't the only KCC student athlete:

Taylor McRae and **Seth Hutchison** both wrestle at Skyview High School. Taylor finished 4th at the region tournament, which qualified him to wrestle at the state tournament. Congratulations Taylor. Seth won the region crown, and after an undefeated run through the state championships, he joined brothers Zeb and Eli and sister Michaela as state individual champions. Seth wrestles in the 98lb weight class. Nice job Seth.

Jeremiah Hudson and **Ben Mattox** are part of the x-country skiing program.

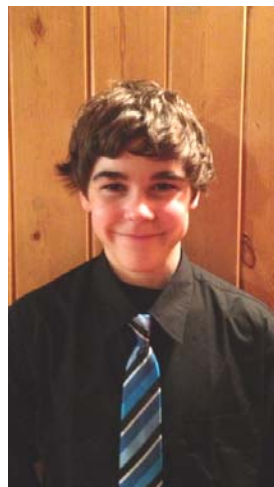
Claire McElroy plays volleyball and basketball at So-Hi.

Daniel McElroy was part of the swim team and plays basketball for So-Hi.

Rachel Blossom is playing basketball (JV & Varsity) at So-Hi; she also was an integral part of the play "Flowers for Algernon" put on by the Soldotna High School drama department.

Amanda Hudson is very active in band.

And of course, we have a number of our "old" people involved in coaching at area high schools, including Paul & Sheila Kupferschmid, Eric & Heidi Skjold, and Dave Blossom.



QUILT SUNDAY—2012

On Sunday, May 27, the 2012 KCC graduating class, comprised of 3 exceptional students, was honored with a special presentation of hand-crafted quilts. Let's meet them now and hear briefly what each had to say as they received these truly wonderful gifts.

Heather Davey said she had not definitively decided what she planned to do next, but did allude to the fact that eventually she wanted to pursue something in the medical field. This would occur either in Alaska or North Carolina. Heather thanked everyone for standing by her and supporting her during her high school years at KCC.

Hannah Hutchison indicated that she wanted to go to Seattle to try and become an equine therapist. Hannah also expressed her thankfulness to everyone for always being there for her, "even though I was a little devil."

Garrett Bosick said he planned on attending the Montana Wilderness School of the Bible, located in Augusta, MT. On the school's website they state, "*Our desire is for each student to experience the joy of walking in obedience to Christ and to take that out into the world.*" Garrett thanked everyone for all the hard work they put into making this quilt for him.

The KCC Newsletter is deeply saddened by the fact that no pictures of this event could be located. So, you will just have to imagine what the smiling faces of these students looked like as they stood next to proud and nervous parents, who were about to watch their loved ones "fly the coop."

Be Not Afraid

submitted by Jane Misner

taken from "GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY," by Dr. O. Hallesby, copywrite 1937

"Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people: for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ The Lord." Luke 2:10-11

Jesus was born on a dark winter night. Yes, since the day of the fall, it had been one long night! Without light from heaven, the souls of men groped their way toward the grave, generation after generation. Without hope and with fearful forebodings.

However, some stars did light up the darkness. They were the promises God had given the little, despised, and now so grievously oppressed, people of Israel. And there were some righteous and devout people looking for the consolation of Israel.

The darker it grew, the more precious the stars became. And one winter night, while some shepherds watched their sheep outside of Bethlehem, the light for which they had been waiting finally came. The glory of the Lord shone round about them. And they were sore afraid.

But the angel understood them and said: "I bring you good tidings of great joy. A Savior is born to you this night. Enter into the city and you will see Him yourselves!" Thereupon the angel drew aside the veil and the heavens were filled with angels who sang the joys of Christmas into the hearts of fearful human beings.

Christmas fear and Christmas joy- the two have gone together ever since the first Christmas here on earth. We all become fearful when the celestial light shines upon us and we see how little Jesus means to us, how occupied we are with ourselves and with our own affairs.

Let us now go hand in hand to the manger and tell Him the truth, how full of fear we are and what it is that we fear. And then let us ask that heaven may be opened a little also unto us, that we may join in the heavenly song of praise: "Glory to God in the highest!"

NONE OF US KNOW

Editor's Note: I received the following from the owner of a company that sells printer toner

None of Us Know...

None of us know how many more Christmases (or whatever you might celebrate this time of year) we will be around to celebrate.

So Many Left Too Soon

37 years ago, my dad (the best dad one could ever hope to have) didn't know at the age of 50 his time to celebrate Christmas had come to an end (he died of a heart attack the day before my 21st birthday, about a month before Christmas, 1974).

At that time, my mom didn't know she would only celebrate 10 more Christmases with our family before her broken heart would succumb to missing my dad.

None of us knew that a few short years later, Timothy, the first grandchild my parents ever had (and the only nephew I ever had) would be taken from us at the age of 4 in the blink-of-an-eye.

Five years ago, I didn't know my best dog-pal ever, "Kitty" who was always at my side or at my feet, we would take Sunday naps together (she never had to be invited, but always joined in), would be there one day and only a few days later succumb to a disease I never knew existed.

The parents and relatives of the twenty children in Sandy Hook who received their angel wings far, far too early, never knew that day would forever be burned in their memories as "the last day..."

The loved ones and relatives of the adults in Sandy Hook who left too soon that same day had no idea they had already celebrated their last Christmas and holiday season with their loved ones.

They Meant the World to Me, and Yet...

All of the people (and living, breathing pals) who are no longer in my life meant the world to me, and yet, when they were in my life I took them for granted and rarely took the time to let them know how much they meant to me.

For me, hardly a day goes by where I don't wish I had one more chance to do that with all of those living, breathing "gifts" I no longer have in my life and there is no way to get that one last chance back.

Material Presents or Material Presence?

It struck me that at this time of year the focus is on material "presents" and we overlook the gifts that we are truly blessed with, the living, breathing gifts who make our lives what they are by virtue of their material presence in our lives.

In the "Material" Sense, 2012 Still Stunk for Most

In the typical "material" sense, 2012 wasn't a great year for so many around the world and quite possibly the presents given or received will be nowhere near what they may have been in the past.

The Gift that Costs Nothing (and Means Everything)

But, unless you have lost any of your most important gifts of the living, breathing kind (the true gifts that can never be replaced), you still have the chance to give them a gift that is priceless.

You can hold them near at this time of year, dig down deep and tell them what they mean to you and let them know what your life would be without them.

Doing so is a gift that costs nothing and means everything.

(And, even if you have suffered a loss of someone or something so meaningful in your life, stopping and saying a silent word of thanks to them and honoring their memory, is priceless. If you believe in the "hereafter", they very well may hear you. If you don't, you will still hear and relish the reminder of their importance.)

Don't Take Their Presence for Granted

Don't take their presence for granted, because I can tell you first hand, life is short and you never know if this Christmas and holiday season will turn out to be the last chance you will have to do so with any one of them.

The World Didn't End on December 21, but, it will End, One Day, for All of Us

Though the Mayans appear to have been wrong, and the world did not end as they predicted, the fact of the matter is, for all of us and for those living things in our lives, each day does bring us one day closer to an end that none of us will ever know may be just around the corner.

Making all of the days any and all of us have remaining better days, through the gift of love is the best gift to give, it costs nothing, but the impact it can and will have is astonishing.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, a happy holiday season and a fantastic 2013

2012 Grandma & Grandpa McGarry/Peggy Dancy Baseball Game

On Sunday, August 5, 2012 approximately 22 of the Peninsula's greatest baseball players got together to show off their skills in the 5th rendition of the Grandma & Grandpa McGarry/Peggy Dancy baseball classic. As usual, shareholders of Advil benefitted greatly the day after the game. Fortunately, we were also able to raise about \$500 for Ms Dancy to use at her discretion in Mozambizue.

Many thanks to Jerry McGarry, who secured the field, umpire, and gear for the game. Thanks also to Arnie Nelson who organized the color guard and purchased concessions for folks to enjoy while they were entertained with what kind of looked like a baseball game. And of course, thanks to those players and ex-players who so willingly "left it all on the field." I'm thinking the grass will be greener because of their efforts.

Here is part of an email that Peggy wrote after receiving the proceeds from the game:

Dear Arnie and all,

Marj Wiley has shared with me that you once more arranged a 'Grandpa McGarry baseball game' with the proceeds to be used for the work in Mozambique! Thank you so much for the \$500. I've asked Marj to direct the money to the Intena Bible School in Nampula, which is now situated just down the road from our SIL center. A couple of German missionary ladies, as well as other Mozambican Bible teachers, had been holding classes in their home and in a rented apartment for years. Now they are in a concrete block building with 4 large classrooms on a large property that will allow for expansion as the Lord leads. My Mozambican pastor is now one of the teachers, since he graduated from Hefsiba Bible School, a Dutch reformed school in Tete province, a couple of years ago. Do pray for believers to mature in Christ and make a difference!

Love in Christ, Peggy



Back Row: John Evanson, Aaron DuPuis, Pat Shields, Kaleb Shields, Jeff Carter, Garret StClair, Umpire, Anderson Fannon, Jerry McGarry, Brandon Foster, Caleb Nelson, Michael Miller, and Paul Kupferschmid. Front Row: Travis Mercer, Justin Ruffridge, Chris Colelli, Jeff Aley, Ben McGarry, Kieran Clucas, Arnie Nelson, Chloe Nelson, and Jacob Peterson.



Ben McGarry enjoying the game from the hill.



Landry Carter on her "mound" hoping her Daddy doesn't hurt himself trying to act young.



Presentation of the colors.

2012 Grandma & Grandpa McGarry/Peggy Dancy Baseball Game

Arnie's 9th Inning Sinners

| Player | AB | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | SAC | HP | BB | SO | RBI |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Anderson Fannon | 3 | 0 | 0 | | | | | 1 | | 2 | |
| Ben McGarry | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Kieran Clucas | 4 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 2 | |
| Brandon Foster | 3 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Smithwick | 3 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 3 | |
| Paul Kupferschmid | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Caleb Nelson | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | 1 | 2 | |
| Jacob Peterson | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | | | | | | | 3 |
| Michael Miller | 3 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Arnie Nelson | 3 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 2 | |
| Chloe Nelson | 3 | 1 | 0 | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Jerry McGarry | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| Totals | 35 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 4 |
| Team Batting Average = | 0.229 | | | | | | | | | | |

Patrick's 7 Inning Saints (minus the two innings he pitched)

| Player | AB | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | SAC | HP | BB | SO | RBI |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Travis Mercer | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | 2 | 2 | |
| Kaleb Shields | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | |
| Garret StClair | 3 | 1 | 0 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| John Evanson | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 2 | | 2 |
| Jeff Aley | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| Justin Ruffridge | 3 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| Chris Colelli | 4 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Jeff Carter | 4 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | 3 | |
| Aaron Dupuis | 4 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | | 2 | 1 |
| Pat Shields | 4 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Totals | 33 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 11 | 4 |
| Team Batting Average = | 0.212 | | | | | | | | | | |

PITCHING STATS

| Arnie's Team | IP | AB | H | R | ER | HP | BB | SO |
|----------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Ben McGarry | 2 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Brandon Foster | 3 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Michael Miller | 2 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Kieran Clucas | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Totals | 9 | 33 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 11 |

| Pat's Team | IP | AB | H | R | ER | HP | BB | SO |
|---------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Kaleb Shields | 2 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Travis Mercer | 2 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Jeff Carter | 2 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Pat Shields | 2 | 12 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Totals | 8 | 35 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 13 |

ANGEL TREE

Each year, KCC helps out some of the families in our area by sponsoring an Angel Tree. Names of local children from Tustumena Elementary school are put on a card and placed on the tree so that those who wish to may pull a card and help ensure that Christmas will be special for a local child.

In addition, the Kasilof Eagles buy food for families represented on the angel tree. Each family receives a ham and turkey, potatoes, oranges, pies, eggs, canned goods, and other food items. The Eagles also give a gift certificate to each family. In 2012, KCC and the Eagles provided food for 12 families and gave gifts to 32 kids. That is absolutely fantastic. Thank-you to everyone who participated in this wonderful program.



The Authority of the Christian Faith

Found and submitted by Jerry McGarry

Much has been written, mostly as lament, about the state of Christian life and thought. I have contributed my own fair share to the conversation.

Here's a question: Where is it that most Christians seem to be missing the boat when it comes to how the Christ life is meant to be carried out? Is there one, significant area where we are most adrift that carries enormous ramifications for how we live and think?

I think there is.

It's the authority of the Christian faith.

First, let's detail what that authority is; here's an "authority statement" that was passed on by my theology professors of old, in one form or another, and that I have long passed on as well:

"The authority of the Christian faith is the triune God, as revealed in Scripture, as conveyed in a heritage, as made real in experience, both corporate and personal."

I know.

You're thinking, "Whew!"

So let's unpack it.

The authority of the Christian faith lies in God Himself, who is triune: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Not three gods, but three Persons who are one God.

This God has revealed Himself to us through Scripture. Yes, the primary revelation was Christ Himself, the second Person of the Trinity incarnate, but how do you know of this Christ today? Largely in one way: the inspired Scriptures known as the gospels.

The very idea of revelation, captured in the Latin word "revelatio," is the pulling back of a curtain to reveal what could not be known otherwise. God has revealed Himself and truth about Himself to us through His revelation, captured in the Bible – itself inspired by the Holy Spirit.

This revelation has been conveyed in a heritage, meaning over 2,000 years of Christian history. For those who would disparage history, simply remember that history is nothing more – and nothing less – than walking back through time listening to our better minds.

While Protestants may not share the Roman Catholic view of how the Holy Spirit has worked through history (they tend to elevate it to the level of Scripture), we can certainly say that while it may not be normative, it is highly informative.

Suffice it to say, if the Christian church has had a settled mind about something for millennia, it's worth noting what that settled opinion is.

All of this is, of course, then made real in experience. It is first made real corporately, through the community of faith (the church), and then through our own personal relationship with God through Christ.

So why is this foundational understanding, this “authority statement,” the heart of what ails us?

It's simple.

We've inverted it.

You see, the authority statement really is in the order in which it was given. It begins with God and His revelation, which stands over heritage, which stands over current corporate experience, which then stands over individual experience.

Thus an end to the “God told me” stuff that is often pure and simple heresy (or delusion) condemned by the church, condemned through church history, and condemned in the Scriptures.

Yet today, we have made personal experience everything. What we think and feel, what we emote and choose, is placed above the stated orthodoxy of the community of faith of which we are a part.

And if our church or denomination decides to buck the rich streams of church history on a matter, not to mention the clear teaching of Scripture – in the name of the all-important corporate experience – then so be it.

Suddenly truth and practice is whatever we want it to be.

Why?

There is no authority beyond our selves.

Today, the authority of the Christian faith is not the triune God as revealed in Scriptures, but the individual man or woman as determined in his or her own mind.

To my thinking, that is what is at the heart of the decline and, yes, eventual fall of Christianity that is happening in the West.

Invest what you will in current debates about the inerrancy of Scripture, or Calvinism vs. Arminianism. These are secondary to whether or not we understand the authority of the Christian faith itself, and submit to it.

In systematic theology, we would call it “prolegomena.”

In common words, it’s called “how to think.”

James Emery White

Thank you for contacting ChurchandCulture.org for permission to reprint today's blog entry. We are honored that you would like to do this, and are happy to grant permission. If you would, please include the Editor's Note from the bottom of the email distribution which says the following:

Editor's Note

James Emery White is the founding and senior pastor of Mecklenburg Community Church in Charlotte, NC, and the ranked adjunctive professor of theology and culture at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, which he also served as their fourth president. His newly released book is *A Traveler's Guide to the Kingdom: Journeying through the Christian Life* (InterVarsity Press). To enjoy a free subscription to the Church and Culture blog, log-on to www.churchandculture.org, where you can post your comments on this blog, view past blogs in our archive and read the latest church and culture news from around the world. Follow Dr. White on twitter @JamesEmeryWhite.

One Another group Christmas party held at Jane Blakeslee's house.



Back Row: Bob & Dot May; Ron & Bonnie Mizera; Jane Blakeslee; Sharon & Bob Knowlton

Front Row: Jim & Evelyn Smith; Perry and Sheryl Neel; Chuck and Cheryl Morse

Pillars with Roots

by Brent Johnson

Following ancestral roots is fun because it takes detective work. Knowledge earned is sweeter than knowledge given. And we can appreciate how fragile our existence has been. My great-great grandfather, Herman Schroeder was born in Germany and allegedly immigrated when he was 19. Seven years later, in 1882, he married Johannah Lawrenz in Chicago. Their first child, Lizzie, was born in 1886 and a second child soon followed.

In the beginning of this happy story a tragedy occurred, diphtheria fell on the family and in 1888 took Johannah and her children. That is what real history is like. Good things and bad things happen with finality, as the earth hurtles through space. Before long human memories fade, and the people who knew first-hand details forget them. Until all the witnesses are gone and we have only written records or pictures.

As it happened, Herman remarried in 1890. He and Emma, his new wife, had two daughters. One of them was Meta, my grandmother. I feel bad for Johannah and her children. I wish they would have lived. If they had, though, I wouldn't have existed.

Matthew and Luke share genealogies of Jesus. We recognize some characters in that ancestral root and like us, they seem fragile. For instance, the lineage goes through Tamar and Bathsheba. Judah and David are what my mom would call "sinners of the first water!"

Written accounts of our past exist in diaries, journals, old newspapers and in public records, such as censuses. Of course a census took place at Bethlehem when Jesus was born. With all the excitement of the baby and shepherds, the Bible doesn't ever mention Joseph actually "registering." We might expect that Mary didn't get counted, being a woman. But Jesus certainly might have been counted. Were some historian to uncover THAT record, we would have an exciting census indeed!

I'm afraid I only have a few records to offer of the humble folks who have been a part of our lives at Kasilof Community Church. For instance, there exists a 9 Nov 1939 U.S. census of Anchorage, AK. In that census at 489 Ninth Ave we find Clayton Pollard and his son, our George Pollard. Here is that record:

Clayton Pollard (50) born in MO, has completed 17 years of schooling. Dentist, General Practice Lucy (45) wife, born in MN, has completed 8 grades of schooling. Housewife Clayton (14) son, born in AK, Student has completed 9 grades of schooling George (13) son, born in AK, Student has completed 8 grades of schooling. **This is our**

George Pollard.

Next door, at 491 9th Ave, we find Herman Hermansen and his family:

Martin Hermansen (57) born in Norway, has completed 8 grades of schooling. Fisherman, Sal Fedora (41) wife, born in AK, has completed 8 grades of schooling. Housewife Marie (20) daughter, born in AK, has completed 10 grades of schooling. Cutter for a cannery Herman (19) son, born in AK, has completed 8 grades of schooling. Fisherman. **This is our Herman Hermansen**

Martin (15) son, born in AK, Student has completed 8 grades of schooling

Alfred (13) son, born in AK, Student has completed 6 grades of schooling

Gordon (11) son, born in AK, Student has completed 5 grades of schooling

Charles F Peterson (73) Lodger, born in Sweden, miner

Meanwhile, Dorothy Hermansen was still at Kenai, though she did eventually attend high school in Anchorage. Here is an excerpt from the 5 Feb 1940 census of Kenai Village:

Mike Juliussen (25) born in AK, trap watchman for a commercial fishing company

Louise (29) wife, born in AK [Kenai]

Dorothy (12) step-daughter, born in AK [Kenai] **This is our Dorothy Hermansen.**

Urbane (10) step-son, born in AK [Kenai]

Beatrice (9) step-daughter, born in AK [Kenai]

Alida (7) step-daughter, born in AK [Kenai]

Carl (5) step-son, born in AK [Kenai]

Vernon (3) step-son, born in AK [Kenai]

The 28 Jan 1940 census of Ninilchik sheds light on more of our friends, but first let's pause at the 1920 Ninilchik census. These records are rife with errors and discrepancies. Here is an example, in 1920 Walter Jackinsky is Walter "Negenskie." His wife and children share this interesting surname and Walter is born in Russia.

Here is info from the 1940 census

Walter Jackinsky Sr. (49) born in Poland, widowed, fisherman for a commercial fishing company Edward (25), son, born in AK, single, cannery worker, completed 9 grades of school Walter (23), son, born AK, married, fisherman for a commercial fishing co., completed 9 grades of school Marie (25) married [to Walter Jr.] born in AK, lived in Washington in Oct, 1934, completed 4 yrs of college Vonnie (1) [Walter & Marie's daughter], born in WA Adolph (15), son, born in AK, completed 9 grades of school George (12), completed 5 grades of school. **This is our George Jackinsky.**

Also in the 1940 Ninilchik census we see signs of missionary activity:

Pauline Smith (30) born in CA, missionary for Faith Mission, lived in CA in 1934, com-

pleted 12 yrs of school Lyllia Blackie (22) born in CA, missionary for Faith Mission, lived in KY in 1934, completed 4 yrs college.

Like the Christmas Spirits who visited Ebenezer Scrooge we must go on to other census records.

23 April 1940 census of Portland, OR

At 261 Rockwood Road:

Ernest Karlen (33) born in OR, lives on a farm, operator of a dairy and milk rt Mildred (29) wife, born in OR

Patricia (10) daughter, born in OR

Shirley (8) daughter, born in OR. This is our Shirley Fritz.

At 262 Rockwood Road:

Theodore Karlen (32) born in OR, live on a farm, operator of a dairy and milk rt

Vivian (27) wife, born in OR

Jacqueline (8) daughter, born in OR

Judy (5) daughter, born in OR

And far away in Georgia, we have the 5 April, 1940 census of Atlanta City, GA. At 33 11th St NE:

Grant Fritz (23), lodger, born in NC, salesman, sells building material, completed 4 yrs high school, in 1935 lived in Montgomery, AL, Adaleen, (28) wife, lodger, born in GA, completed 4 yrs high school, in 1935 lived in Montgomery, AL, These are Grant Fritz's parents, but where is Grant? According to my records, he was born Grant Leroy Fritz III on 5 Dec 1932 in Waynesville, NC to Grant Leroy Fritz II (1912-1975) and Lucy Adaleen Mott Fritz (1911-1974). They are buried in Kasilof cemetery.

9 April 1940 census of Toledo, OH At 460 Oak Street

George G. McGarry (57) head of house, born in OH, completed 8th grade, is a punch press operator for a vehicle manufacturer, lived in same house in 1935 Mabel M. (55) wife, born in OH, completed 1 yr high school Charles J. (24) son, born in OH, completed 4 yrs high school, is an office clerk for a food brokering office, John G. (22) son, born in OH, completed 4 yrs high school, is a billing clerk for a trucking company. **This is our "Grandpa" McGarry**, who many in the congregation remember. He is Jerry's dad. Thomas I. McGarry (60) (George's brother), born in OH, completed 8th grade, is a cook for a restaurant, lived in same house in 1935.

Also at 460 Oak Street, but under a different head of house:

Edmund T. McGarry (26) born in OH, completed 4 yrs high school, is a retail clerk at a drug store, lived in same house in 1935 Annabelle (27) wife, born in Michigan, complet-

ed 2 yrs high school, lived in same city in 1935. Irwin T. (3 months?) son, born in OH.

13 April 1940 census of Minneapolis, MN, at 6th Street South

Trudy Thorsness (20) born in WI, is in 1st yr of college, student nurse for Fairview Hospital, affiliated with Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, in 1935 Trudy lived at Vincent, Webster County, IA. **This is our Trudy Webb.** She is the daughter of Julius B and Martha O Thorsness. Julius was a lumber yard manager. Trudy married Noble Wayne Webb in 1945.

11 April 1940 census of Milwaukee, WI. at 2502 South Williams St.

George Letzring (34) born in WI, finished 1 yr high school, is a lathe machinist for a tool company, lived in the same city in 1935 Laura M (26) wife, born in MN, finished 1 yr high school David G (3) son, born in WI. **This is our Dave Letzring.**

24 Apr 1940 census of Ellisforde, WA

John Swanson (31) born in WI, completed 8th grade, is renting, is a sawyer for a sawmill, lived in same city in 1935.

Orleta [Earleta E, by the 1930 census] I. (25) wife, born in WA, completed 3 yrs high school, lived in same city in 1935

Charlene, (5) daughter, born in WA

Carol R. (2) daughter, born in WA.

next door:

Victor S. Swanson (37), born in WI, is a foreman at a box factory, lived in Douglas County, WA in 1935

Helen M. (35) wife born in WA

10 April 1940 census of Jefferson County, WA

Earl Ward (48), head of house, born in NE, lived in same house in 1935, is a dairy man for a dairy farm.

Florence (38) wife, born in ID, lived in same house in 1935

Donald (17) son,

Dorothy (14) daughter

Marjory (13) daughter

Sonja Ann Swanson (1) granddaughter, born in WA. **This is our Ann Letzring.**

This research could garland records for everyone. But Time doesn't exist for it. In Eternity, Time will lose its power. For now, I marvel at the pillars God has given us, noting that each one was once a fragile, newborn infant.

Holiday Stollen

*Editor's Note: Brent Johnson's sister, Judy Labi, has lived in London for almost 30 years. She has a Masters Degree in nutrition and once worked for a company that supplied food for hospitals in America. In London she took her food business to the young by teaching cooking classes to children. Now she posts cooking blogs at <http://judylabiskitchen.blogspot.co.uk/>
Below is a typical blog:*

Holiday preparations are a busy time everywhere, and were no less so on our Alaskan homestead years ago.

Outside was very cold, with snow all around, but inside our small homestead cabin, we were warm from a stove, fired by wood, cut from our 160 acre site. The air we breathed had just a tinge of smoke which escaped from the burning logs. Evenings, my father would find time to relax and entertain us with carols, like Silent Night, Oh Christmas Tree, and Jingle Bells, which he sung in Swedish, and strummed each tune on the mandolin. Our brown, Chesapeake dog, Scamp, lay close beside him, thumping his tail now and again, it seemed, in rhythm. A few feet away, in the kitchen/dining area, mother and I measured out ingredients, kneaded and shaped stollen loaves. As part of the traditional foods from her American German heritage, stollen was essential each year. The sweet aromas of the loaves coming from the oven, brought my brothers down from the loft and around the kitchen table with the rest of us for a slice of the fruit rich sweet bread, glazed to perfection.

Over the years, in my cooking courses, here in London we have made stollen loaves for the kids to take home to share. They have enjoyed the bread made without Marzipan overall. Thus, I have made it an optional ingredient in the courses. I have done the same in the following recipe.

Ingredients:

1 package active dry fast-acting yeast
1 cup/240 ml/8 oz skim milk
8 Tablespoons/100g/4 oz butter or baking margarine
1/4 cup/2 1/2 oz/75 g white granulated sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom

4 1/2 cups/500g/1 lb. 2 oz plain flour
1 beaten egg
1 1/4 cups/ 190 g/7 oz raisins
1/4 cup/50g/2 oz chopped, mixed candied
fruits
1/4 cup/50g/2 oz flaked blanched almonds
zest from one orange, coarsely grated
zest from one lemon, coarsely grated
1/2 teaspoon almond extract
375g/14 oz Marzipan (optional)
Glaze



- In a small glass bowl, heat milk and butter in the microwave for about one minute to melt the butter.
- In another, large bowl, stir together the flour, sugar, yeast, salt, cardamom, raisins, candied fruits, almonds, and grated zest from orange and lemon. Stir in the yeast.
- Whisk the egg into the slightly cooled milk and butter. Add the almond extract. Add the liquid to the dry ingredients and stir.
- On a lightly floured surface, knead the dough until elastic; about 5 minutes.
- Divide dough into 3. Pat each piece into a 10x6 inch (rectangle). Place a rope of Marzipan in the middle lengthwise if using. Fold the long side of the dough over to within 1 inch of the opposite side. Place on a baking sheet. Cover and let rise until double, about 1 hour.
- Bake in a 375F/180C oven for 15 minutes, or lightly browned.
- Remove from oven and brush with glaze.
- Glaze: Combine 1 cup/100g icing sugar, 2 tablespoons hot water, and one teaspoon butter. Decorate with candied cherries or silver balls.
- Enjoy!

Note: according to Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stollen>), a Stollen is a fruit cake containing dried fruit and often marzipan and covered with sugar, powdered sugar or icing sugar. The cake is usually made with chopped candied fruit and/or dried fruit, nuts and spices. Stollen is a traditional German cake, usually eaten during the Christmas season, when called Weihnachtsstollen or Christstollen.

KCC BAPTISMS

One of the most special days any church family will ever experience is when we gather to celebrate with individuals who have expressed their desire to be baptized. In all truthfulness, a baptism should be extolled in the same way that the birth of a child is celebrated. It is undoubtedly one of the most important decisions anyone will ever make. And everyone said, "Amen!"

Malte Groenich was baptized at Johnson Lake on July 1, 2012.

Jim Gregory & Keith Thalacker were baptized October 21, 2012 at KCC. Unfortunately, we don't have any pictures of that baptism, but that doesn't detract from our joyfulness in this most special of days.



Some of the KCC faithful preparing to watch Pastor Paul baptize Malte Groenich.



Pastor Paul explains to Malte and the witnesses gathered at Johnson Lake the importance of what is about to happen.