



**Kasilof  
Community  
Church**

**Issue 30  
June 2009**

**Table of Contents**

From the Pastor's PC	2
ACC Graduation	3
Quilt Sunday 2009	4
Baseball fund-raiser	6
Miss Dancy thank-you	9
KCC quilt honored	10
Vern & Penny Wood	12
Baseball stats	16

# KCC Newsletter

## Summer 2009

A couple decades (or so) ago there was a popular song sung by Jimmy Buffett, with a play on words for the title, "The weather is here, I wish you were beautiful." I don't really remember what the song was about, but I used to use those words as a satirical greeting to friends and family. I thought I was being so witty.

By the time you read this, the summer solstice will have arrived in the great state of Alaska. This annual event on the calendar means that we now have nearly round the clock opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors. Some of you use the extended photoperiod to chase salmon and halibut, while others are known to start a movie at 10:00 or 11:00 p.m. In Fairbanks, they even play a baseball game at midnight, using nothing other than natural lighting. Yes, the weather really is here, albeit some of us don't look so beautiful the following morning because of our late "night" Alaska

summer time follies. I am writing this after spending a couple of hours walking around the track at Skyview High School as part of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life annual fundraiser. I was blessed to be able to listen to my daughter, Kelsey, and her friend, Katie, sing beautiful harmonies. As each lap passed by, my thoughts turned to those whose lives were shortened because of this indiscriminate killer. And I thought of my fellow survivors, who with the help of family and friends, are doing all they can to defeat this adversary.

So yes, the weather is here, and as a result of all that extra light, some of us are willing to sacrifice "beauty" for extra time in the sun. But I hope you will join me in not forgetting to give thanks even in circumstances that aren't beautiful.

*James 1:2 .....when you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy,*

## From the Pastor's PC

*"Do not judge so that you will not be judged. 2 "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. 3 "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? 5 "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. Matthew 7:1-5*

This passage touched off a lively discussion on a recent Wednesday evening. In the past, I have known some who struggle with sin in their lives to refer to these words. Such people quickly warn a caring confronter not to “judge” them. And certainly those who do the hard work of restoring a sinful person must first search and then humbly prepare their own hearts. Jesus’ warning against Pharisaical hypocrisy is as appropriate in our day as in His.

But the Bible has much more to say on the subject. Here, we will share just two principles.

### **1. God has imparted discernment and “judgment” to those who belong to His Church.**

*Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints? 2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life? 4 So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church? 5 I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren, 6 but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers? 1 Corinthians 6:1-6*

### **2. Loving believers play an indispensable saving role for each of us in our struggle with sin.**

*My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. James 5:19-20*

*But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.*

*22 And have mercy on some, who are doubting; 23 save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh. Jude 1:20-23*

In light of these principles, Jesus is not telling us to neglect exhortation among the community of believers. He is telling us to do so with humility.

. . . and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

-Jesus Christ

## Alaska Christian College Graduation

Students and staff from Alaska Christian College visited KCC on Sunday, May 3, which provided us an opportunity to celebrate another year where these young people not only learned about God's unfailing love, they experienced it. ACC president, Keith Hamilton, presented a thought-provoking message that challenged us in the pews to become actively involved in these young people's lives. "Our youth are not the church of tomorrow, they are the church of today," he said. Keith also shared that it takes 8 involved adults to point a young person to Christ. Congratulations ACC graduates. For more information about ACC, please visit <http://akcc.org/home/akcc.org/>



## Quilt Sunday 2009

The opening line of a popular day-time soap opera states, “Like sands through the hourglass, so are the days of our lives.” Well, that’s how I remember it, anyway. As this year’s graduating class were presented with their quilts, it was hard not to reflect on the days of our lives and on what an important tradition quilt Sunday has become at KCC. Standing next to her son, Grant, Katy Blossom represents the first class to receive a KCC quilt. Who would have thought that this demonstration of love would still be going nearly 30 years later?



Pastor Paul leads the graduates, their parents, and the congregation in a prayer of blessing. From left to right: Dawn and Stephanie Davey; Pastor Paul; Adam, Jerry, & Susie Byrne; Ryan Harris & Caroline & Rick Langley; Sheila Kupferschmid & Jessie Bilderback; Grant & Katie Blossom & Uncle Ray Leonard.

Ryan Harris looks out to the congregation as he shares what his plans are for the next phase of his life. Caroline and Rick also take a few moments to muse about what lies ahead for Ryan.





Grant Blossom carefully considers his words as he shares about growing up in the church. Mom, Katie, and Uncle Ray Leonard are attentive listeners.



Little Jessie Bilderback talks about the big plans she has for her future while Paul & Sheila beam with joy as they reflect on how far Jessie has come already.



Adam Byrne uses some of the skills he learned in speech class to thank everyone for all they meant to him during his high school years at KCC. Mom & Dad, Susie & Jerry Byrne proudly look on.



Stephanie Davey is all smiles as she talks about her time with the youth at KCC; her mom, Dawn, joins her daughter in a moment of joy.

## **2009 Peggy Dancy Baseball Fund-Raiser**

In what will hopefully grow in status to the point of becoming an annual classic, a group of has-beens and want-to-be baseball players got together on June 21, 2009 in honor of Grandma & Grandpa McGarry to support Peggy Dancy's mission activities in Mozambique, Africa. This was the third year we have done this. To make the game even more special, we were blessed to have Peggy in attendance, as she was back in Alaska on furlough. She was easy to spot, wearing her winter wear in the heat and heart of our Alaska summer. What a joy it was to have her with us and what a privilege it is to be able to help her in just a small way. Thank-you to those who didn't play the game, but did play a significant role by helping with all of the other activities associated with the game, including food preparation and distribution to the players and fans.



Jack McGarry, Perry Neel, Trent Buning, EJ Berestoff, Jeff Siemers, Dan Poppin, Derek Poppin, John Davis, Toby Tumsuden, Paul Kupferschmid, Jerry McGarry, Umpire John Saylor, DJ Foister, MISS PEGGY DANCY, and Dave Westerman.



Peggy Dancy (center) is flanked by MaryJo Davis and MJ's brother, Jack McGarry, as the trio were presented game balls and flowers in honor of Grandma & Grandpa McGarry's support of Peggy's missionary work in Mozambique. I'm sure many of you joined me in looking over to the cars in the parking lot, knowing that Grandma & Grandpa spent many, many hours watching and supporting a number of those who were on the field this day.



Mark McGarry, Ely Evanson, Caleb Nelson, Pat Shields, David (Smitty) Smith, Travis Mercer, John Evanson, Stan Westerman, Jordan Bower, Chloe Nelson, David Bower, Arnie Nelson, Kaleb Shields, and Mary-Jo Davis (McGarry).



Red team manager, Jerry McGarry, awaits the pitch, which he eventually drove into center-field for a base hit. He later came home to score a run. Way to go coach! Catching is Kaleb Shields; our umpire was John Saylor.

White team manager, John Evanson, takes a rip, while catcher, DJ Foister, prepares in case of a whiff. During the game, John ended up on first base enough times to show off his base-running skills. In one instance, Mark McGarry was catching and tried to pick John off first by throwing down behind him. As Pastor Paul attempted to receive the throw, John forgot this was baseball, and tackled Paul with a Seattle Seahawks linebacker move. Remember, it's all for Peggy, so anything goes.





**Dear baseball players, organizers, and other participants,**

A HUGE THANK YOU for the wonderful celebration of Grandpa and Grandma McGarry's life with the baseball game yesterday. If they were able to look on, they would have enjoyed themselves to the max!

What a fun time for all involved. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and loved how everyone laughed, cheered, and groaned at the right times. I know it took a lot of work to coordinate the game, prep the field, send announcements, and buy the food.

My hat goes off to all the players. Despite the wind and blowing sand, you showed us a great game. Thanks for the ball with all your signatures! I'll proudly show it to the kids at Morningstar Academy and my Mozambican friends back in Nampula.

My hat goes off to you, Peggy, for the keeping of the scores. You had to be focused in all the time, which allowed the rest of us (me in particular) to divide our attention when new faces arrived to greet.

My hat goes off to 'Jon the Ref' who did a great job of calling the game (imagine a game where the ref was always right!)

My hat goes off to those who cooked the food, including Ann Letzring and Mary Hutchinson. The burgers and hot dogs were delicious!

My hat goes off to all the kids who trotted around with coffee, tea, and cocoa to sell to the fans and who manned the table where the candies and such were sold. You were all smiles and good cheer. I was proud of you.

Thank you for the huge effort that went into this delightful afternoon on the longest day of the year. I'll never forget it! AND thank you for the money raised for Mozambican projects.

I'm full of gratitude! Love in the One who makes it possible, Peggy

*Editor's Note: with an anonymous donation of \$500, player participation fees, and concessions, approximately \$1,000 was raised for Peggy to use in Mozambique.*

## KCC Quilt Honored in Kentucky



In the fall of 2006, the wonderfully talented ladies of KCC made a quilt to be raffled off as part of a benefit dinner and auction for Pat & Lea Shields. Marj Wiley won the raffle and very generously donated the quilt for resale.

Hazel Nelson, the wife of George Pappas, a coworker of Pat's, was in attendance that night and was "blown away" by the quality of the quilt being raffled. She ended up "commissioning" a quilt to be made for her husband's family. The proceeds from this sale and the resale of the quilt Marj won were used by the KCC ladies to help offset some of the costs to attend the Women of Faith conference.

The quilt was given as a Christmas gift two years ago. It now resides on George Pappas' Great-Great Grandfather's bed in Littleton Colorado. George relayed that each Christmas his mother asks him, "Which quilt square will be this year's Christmas theme?"

There is a side-story to this quilt's young life that is rather interesting. It seems the quilt made a cross country trip to Kentucky where it was shown and honored at the American Quilter's Society museum in Paducah. George's mom, Gail, shared the following details when asked about the Paducah trip.

*"Because I thought the quilt was so beautiful, I wanted the staff at the quilt museum to see it. The museum is only about 40 miles from my hometown of Murray. KY. A friend and I took it there and the staff just loved the design and*

*the workmanship. They stretched it out on a table and really went over it. They weren't familiar with fireweed or puffins and I shared what I knew. They told me how to care for it and were so appreciative that I had shared it with them. It's home is now on the bed in George's old bedroom in Colorado. I love each Christmas for George and Hazel to select a square for my Christmas gift. It was too wonderful for all of it to be a one time gift, so I asked them to chose one square each year. It is now a Christmas tradition. It is carefully put away when friends or family use the bedroom. I promise to always take good care of it. The quilt is very special to me."*

The folks at the American Quilter's museum now realize what we here in Kasilof have known all along, that is, that we have some of the kindest and most talented quilters you will ever encounter.

For this particular quilt project, the following ladies were involved: Jean Evenson, Cheryl Morse, Sharon Knowlton, Delores Carter, Dot May, and Sheryl Neel.

Congratulations ladies!



## Vern & Penny Wood

In sticking with the song theme, like that found on the front page of this edition of the Newsletter, there is a verse from another popular song sung by many artists that includes the following words: "I'm going to Kansas City, Kansas City here I come, I'm going to Kansas City, Kansas City here I come, They got some pretty little women there, And I'm gonna get me one."

When I sat down to talk to Vern & Penny Woods and learned they were married in Kansas City, well I immediately broke out with my best rendition of the song, emphasizing "the pretty little women there" line. That's when Vern gave me a quick history lesson about the rest of the song. It won't be the last time I insert my size 10 shoe in my size 12 mouth.

Penny (Nay) Wood was born in 1938 in West Virginia and lived the life of a navy brat, as her Dad was a Navy man, which required the family to move often, as he was reassigned to different posts. Vern was also born in 1938 about 10 miles outside of Paris, Missouri. He was in the army from 1956 to 1959. He met Penny at a small New Year's eve party in 1959. They had a couple of dates in January, 1960, four more in February, and the **big** date came on March 28, 1960 when they were married in Kansas City (so I guess he really did get one of those pretty little woman there).



At the time of their marital union, Penny was in the final year of training at the Research Hospital School of Nursing in KC. She graduated in March of 1961 and worked as an R.N. in surgery at the North KC Hospital until 1963. She accomplished all of this while becoming a mother to her and Vern's first two children. They ended up having four kids in all, and to date they have been blessed with 12 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. Their son, Robert was born late in 1960, Lee Ann was born in 1961, Linda in 1965, and Kathy in 1966 (see the family photo below and see if you can pick out their 4 kids).

After getting married, Vern worked as an overhead crane operator at a plumbing supply house in KC. He earned \$1.35/hr, which was 10c/hour more than his uncles made, who had worked at this business for nearly 10 years. They weren't good on the crane like Vern. Penny humbly pointed out that she made \$1.50/hour at the time (you go girl).

It seems that both Vern and Penny had a desire to see Alaska, so with no reason, other than desire, they sold their home in KC and packed up their two kids and all their worldly belongings and scrunched them into a Ford Econoline Van and set out for the last frontier. They arrived in Anchorage on 7/7/1963. Vern had become a life insurance agent in KC prior to their move and he went to work for Occidental insurance agency in Anchorage. They rented a place on Lake Hood in Spenard before building a home on O'Malley in 1965.

This move to Alaska got them here just in time for the 1964 earthquake. Vern was now working at Montgomery Wards while Penny was employed at the Presbyterian Community Hospital, which would later become Humana Hospital, and now Alaska Regional Hospital. Penny said she was at home making pizza when the earthquake hit, and she grabbed the kids and ran outside. Vern was

at work at Montgomery Wards and quickly ran home to make sure everything was alright. Neither their home or Vern's business suffered much from the earthquake, and they really didn't think that much of it until they got the reports of



the devastation in other parts of town and elsewhere in the state.

After the earthquake, Vern ended up working for Allstate insurance from 1964 until 1971. It was at this time that they bought some homestead property (120 acres) alongside the Parks highway between Wasilla and Willow. (At this point in the interview, Penny excused herself and left the room, saying something about the next 13 years of their life are all Verns.) One of the improvements located on their new property was a small cabin. So, Vern acquired a 10'x 50' mobile home for some extra room. He then proceeded to build a 12'x 30' room to connect the cabin to the mobile home (another song comes to mind now...."Come and listen to a story about a man named Jed"). Something about the roof over this building and its ability to capture rain and funnel it to one of the walls and then down into a bucket finally out a hose to the ground was what made this place so special. In fact, it was memories like these that brought Penny back into the room to share that they only lived there 13 years, 2 months, 7 days, and 3 hours.

During their homesteading days in the valley, Vern tried his hand at two different occupations; one was rather common for adventurers, while the second job is something that you wouldn't have guessed had I given you 100 tries. Like many others who have headed "North to Alaska," Vern ended up chasing after gold nuggets. I didn't ask how lucrative this endeavor was, but it couldn't have provided much of a fortune, because for the next 25 years he also used his skills to chase after another dream. Did you guess what it might be? Well, Vern became a square dance caller. Don't misread what was just written, he didn't call dancers square, he was the guy calling out



the moves at a square dance, you know, “Grab your partner and do-si-do.” He took some square dance call training and also picked some of it up on the fly. When asked about the compensation for such skills, Vern said it varied, but that a square dance caller could make anywhere from \$50 to \$200/dance. He called dances 5 nights/week and many times a couple of dances per day. His circuit ranged from Talkeetna to Anchorage, so he stayed pretty busy.

In 1980 Vern and Penny opened their own insurance company, *Alaska Service Agency*. They specialized in auto, home, mobile home, and some business policies. They operated this business until their retirement on January 1, 2004. During this time, Penny worked at a couple of doctor’s offices and at the Valley Hospital in Palmer. She also was the book keeper, payroll officer, and official “gopher” at the insurance business.

During their square dancing days, Vern and Penny met Grant & Lois Phillips, a couple who had homesteaded on Czekanski Road off of what is now known as Kalifonsky Beach Road. During trips down to the peninsula to visit the Phillips, Vern ended up fishing on the Kasilof River. It was on one of these trips in 2003 that Penny told Vern that there was a piece of land that was for sale that wasn’t all swamp land like their homestead land had been in the Valley. Vern understood that to mean, “Go buy it,” so he walked up the road and wrote out a check to the land owner. Vern ended up building a home on this piece of property, which is located about two miles down North Cohoe loop road.

Vern shared that at the age of 10 years he was saved at a Baptist church in KC. He admitted that he lived through a brief period of rebellion as a young man, but for the greatest part of his life he has known the Lord. Likewise, Penny came to salvation at a fairly young age in life, when at the age of 16 she accepted Christ in a Methodist church in Maryland. They have raised their kids in the faith and all of them and most of their extended family know the Lord. What a testimony that is.

Vern said that they used to visit KCC during their summer fishing outings. One of his first trips to KCC found the pulpit filled by a substitute, as Pastor Joe Knox was gone. After the service that day, Vern told Penny, “If that’s as bad as it gets, we can probably survive here.” Well, he didn’t quite say it like that, but the writer of this article was the speaker that day, and can only imagine that these words were said at some point.

### 3rd Annual Peggy Dancy Baseball Fund Raiser (June 21, 2009)

#### White Team: Manager John Evanson

Player	AB	R	1B	2B	3B	HR	SAC	HP	BB	SO	RBI
David Smith (Smitty)	4	0						1		4	
Stan Westerman	4	4	3			1		1			3
Dave Westerman	5	2	2	1						1	2
Jordan Bower	4	0	2					1		1	3
David Bower	5	0	1							2	1
Ely Evanson	4	1		1							
Kaleb Shields	3	2							1	1	
Pat Shields	4	2		2							
Arnie Nelson	4	2	1	2						1	3
Chloe Nelson	1	0									
Caleb Nelson	4	0		1						1	1
Travis Mercer	3	2						1	1	1	1
John Evanson	3	1	1						1		1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>

#### Red Team: Manager Jerry McGarry

Player	AB	R	1B	2B	3B	HR	SAC	HP	BB	SO	RBI
John Davis	4	0	1							1	
DJ Foister	3	0	1							1	
Mark McGarry	3	1									
EJ Berestoff	3	0								1	
Paul Kupferschmid	3	0								1	1
Toby Tumsuden	3	0								2	
Perry Neel	3	0	1							1	
Jerry McGarry	3	1	1								
Trent Buning	3	0								3	
Dan Poppin	3	0		1						1	
Derek Poppin	3	1	2							1	
Jeff Siemers	3	0	1							2	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>

#### PITCHING STATS

##### WHITE TEAM

	IP	H	R	ER	HP	BB	SO
Pat Shields	3	3	1	0	0	0	4
Travis Mercer	2	1	0	0	0	0	4
Kaleb Shields	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
Ely Evanson	1	3	2	2	0	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>

##### RED TEAM

	IP	H	R	ER	HP	BB	SO
Mark McGarry	2	4	3	3	0	1	3
Trent Buning	2	5	4	4	3	0	2
Derek Poppin	3	2	1	0	0	0	4
DJ Foister	2	7	8	8	1	2	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>