

SBC Happenings

A publication of Sterling Baptist Church, Sterling, Alaska

WHY RETREATING IS HEALTHY FOR OUR CHURCH

When I say "retreat," you probably think of terms like *abandon* or *escape*. In fact, a battle scene may come to mind where a commander yells at his soldiers to *retreat*. Used this way, the word carries overtones of

failure and even perhaps *fear*. However, it's not always negative in its meaning.

When I say "Church Retreat," you should think of a time of

rest and recreation. A time of withdrawing from the hectic demands on our church. A time of playing, singing and just being together. I'm a big believer in retreating. And so is Jesus by the way. *So let me offer you three reasons why retreating is healthy for our church:*

First, retreating gives us time to remember God's work in our church. If we don't intentionally take the time to remember, we will unintentionally forget. Think about the feasts and holidays that God gave His people Israel. Many of these celebrations were designed with the specific purpose of remembering God's work on their behalf. It's no coincidence that when Israel stopped remembering, they started stray-

ing. Part of this year's Church Retreat is the reading of our church's history because retreating is for remembering.

Second, retreating helps us maintain a spirit of unity in our church. When our entire relationship as a church is solely concentrated on *our doing together* (doing the work), there is going to be all kinds of unnecessary friction and conflict. But when our relationship is equally concentrated on *our being together* (loving each other and getting along), we will be a much more unified church. In the end, our being together enhances our doing together. Simply put, the church that plays together, stays together.

Finally, retreating gives us a small glimpse of eternity. I mean, who doesn't want that? Enjoying God's creation and each other's company in the presence of God brings us joy. It also brings our God joy. And hey, it shows our kids that being the church is enjoyable, not terrible. Retreating will show us just a little bit of what we have to look forward to in the Kingdom of God.

The Miller Mess is anticipating this year's Church Retreat and we hope you are too. See you at Brown's Lake!

Shep

Pop Quiz!!

Match the missionary to their location of service:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| • Beiles | • Peru |
| • Gustafson | • Ukraine |
| • Whatley | • Spain |
| • Steele | • Alaska |
| • Higher Ground Camp | • Uruguay |

(Look inside for more missionary highlights!)



VISIT US ONLINE sterlingbaptist.org

God is the Potter

By JtO

We all begin as a lump of clay. But before we are formed, God already has a plan for our lives. Like the potter-God picks up the piece of clay-just the right amount. He holds it, examines it, and kneads it to make it ready for the wheel. But before He puts it on the wheel, He already knows what He will make out of His piece of clay.

The potter begins turning the wheel and places His hands on the clay. He lovingly and delicately forms it- never letting go. The clay can have imperfections or a bubble can get entrapped but the potter carefully works the piece until the imperfections are worked out. The piece can get out of kilter and begin to wobble- but the careful craftsman works His miracle and turns the piece to perfection.



When the piece is perfectly formed and the master is proud of His work, the once lump of clay is ready for the fire. This piece of clay is of no value until it has gone through the fire. It can not hold water nor any weight, it can be easily dented, bruised, or ruined. Until it goes through the fire and tested- it is not complete. After the fire it can be used. It is tried. It is tested. It now has value.

We too are molded lovingly with God's hands. If He were to take His hands away-we would spin out of control and end up a worthless lump of clay. He predetermined what I would be before He placed me on His wheel. He made me perfect in His eyes and then he tested and fired me.

Lord, make me a useful vessel that you can use.

Summer WORSHIP TIMES

Weekly Activities

Sunday

-Worship @11
-Evening Activities
See below

Monday

-Hour of Prayer @ noon

Thursdays

-Men's Group-7 am
@ Ammo Can

Sunday Evening & Other Events

July

- 4 Independence Day, no evening Services
- 9-11 Church Retreat & Campout
- 18 Church @ the Park
- 25 Church @ the Park

August

- 1 VBS Set-Up
- 2-4 VBS!!!
- 8 TBD
- 15 Business Meeting & Outdoor Fire Pit
- 22 TBD
- 29 TBD

MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT

The Beiles Family

Check out our church Facebook page to view captivating interview clips with the Beiles family! We will be posting one video a week for a total of 5 clips

The Challenge

Find the answers to these questions by watching all five interview clips. If you can send the correct answers to Krikkit Biswas, you will win a bookmark!

1. How long has the Beiles family served in their country of service?
2. What person did God use to draw Barry to Salvation? What person did God use to draw Anita to salvation?
3. What are some things they do to serve on the field?
4. What is one thing Barry loves about his country of service?
5. What is one thing Barry loves about Anita and sees God using in her service for the Kingdom?
6. What is one prayer request they mention that you will pray for right now?

When you have all your answers, email them to sterlingbaptist@acsalaska.net with the subject: Answers for Krikkit.





**Jasper &
Lacie
Fischer**

Pastor Andrew had the privilege of marrying the newlyweds in Florida on May 31st, and we had the privilege of enjoying a backyard reception for them on June 13th! Congratulations!

love

is in the air

**Baby
Pokryfki**



Welcome Baby Pok! Levi Warren was born to Anders & Angie Pokryfki May 12th. This is their first child and we couldn't be more excited for them. Thank you for sharing your joy with us!

Before the Beginning

by Darrell Kincaid

Any study of the Beginning must include some discussion of what there was in the Beginning. Since we believe that Scripture teaches that the physical world that we can see and experience as well as the extra-physical world which we cannot see or experience was created out of "nothing", then the assumption is that there was nothing before there was something. "Nothing" means nothing. "Nothing" does not mean a primordial soup with all of the building blocks of life that could, over time with sufficient stimulation, manage to turn into life as we know it. "Nothing" does not mean a great cluster of matter that was being drawn in upon itself into a theoretical antimatter explosion that would contain all the essentials of life as we know it some trillions of years later. "Nothing" means nothing.

We also believe that Scripture teaches that God Himself spoke the Creation into existence from that "Nothing". Obviously, this presupposes that God was there in the "Nothing". It is God that we need to start with and settle before we even

attempt to understand the Creation or the ultimate Plan of God. Once we have established who God is and His character we will be able to trace it through history, as revealed in Scripture and any other source.

The existence of God is taken for granted in the Bible. There is nowhere any argument to prove that God exists. He who doesn't believe this truth is spoken of as one without understanding (Ps 14:1).

"Nothing Means Nothing"

What did God do in Eternity Past before he created everything? Don't know. To even try to answer this question is to put God in a human box... which we ought not to do. This is a form of heresy known as Ebionism... basically God is just a perfect man. Many of the cults hold this view, and it is creeping into some of the books and music that are popular today. God cannot be measured by our human standard of conduct. God cannot

be fully understood with our human reasoning. His love is not like our love. His mercy is not like our mercy. His grace is not like our grace. His response to our sin is not like our response to sin.

Many attempts have been made to define the term "God": as to the word itself, it is Anglo-Saxon, and among our English ancestors signified, not only the Divine Being, but also "Ultimate Good". In their understanding "God" and "good" were synonymous terms since all good came from God so when they thought or spoke of Him, they were led from the word itself to consider him as The Ultimate Good Being". This understanding then, helped them to frame the Actions of God such as Creation, History, Life and Death as well as the other attributes of God such as Justice, Love, Holiness, and the list that we will consider in future lessons.

For those of you investing time in the Systematic Theology Study...you had to start with God. He, and our meager understanding of Him, frames and underpins all else.

Sterling Baptist Church

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SBC VBS



August 2-4
6:30 - 8:00 pm