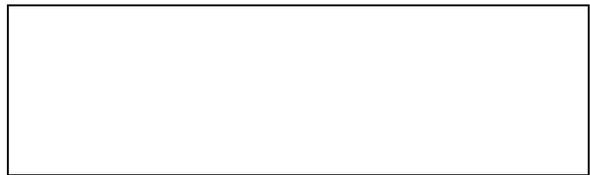
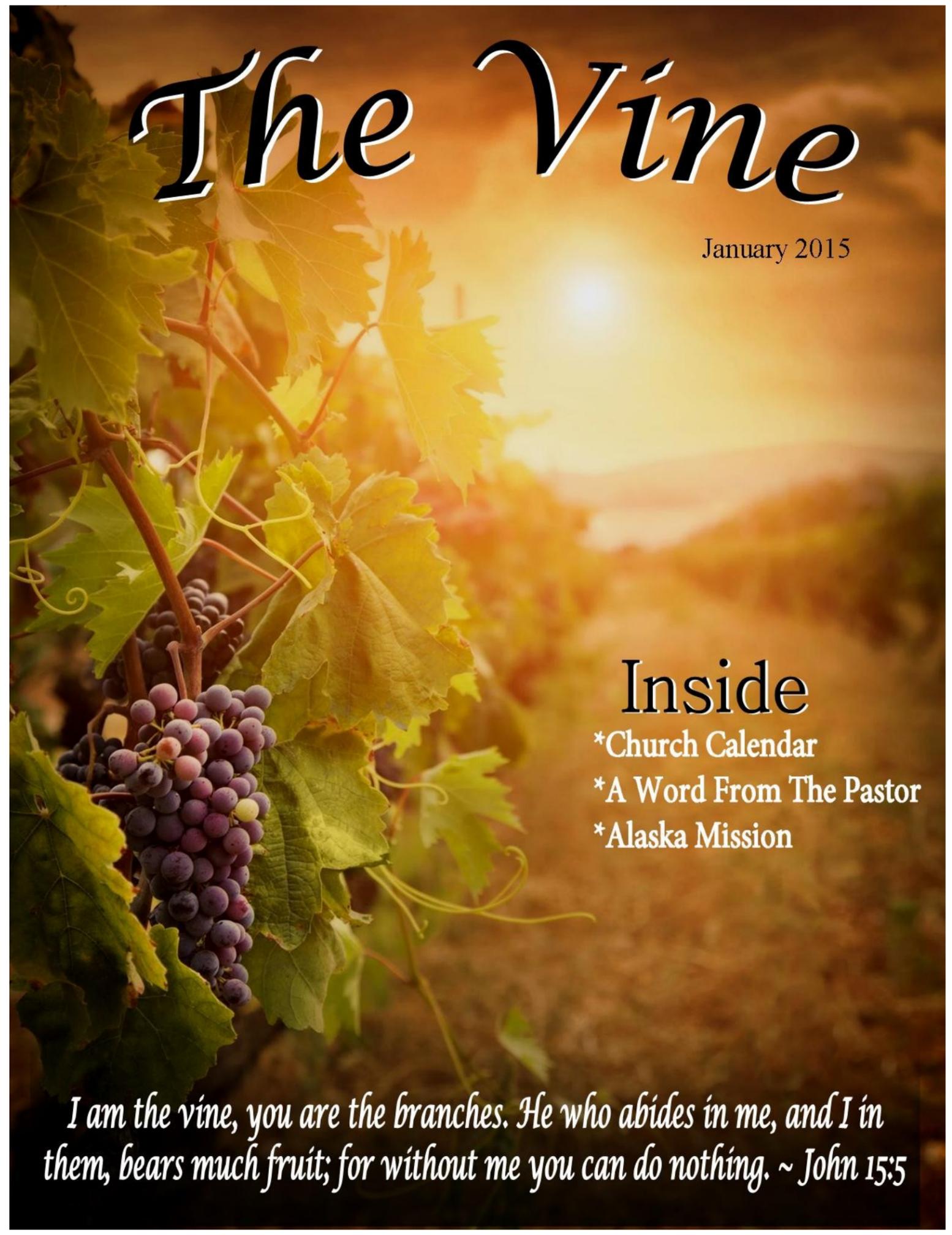


Postage:



**Enrolling soon! Work scholarship options for Calvary Christian Academy available call 365-0991.**



# The Vine

January 2015

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*I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in them, bears much fruit; for without me you can do nothing. ~ John 15:5*



# The Vine

Happy New Year!  
I hope this finds you well and basking in the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May He fill your year with His blessings.

**Find us:**   
**info@ccemmett.org**

**Get our app!**  

- \*Send Prayer Requests
- \*Listen to Sermons
- \*Watch Video
- \*Stay Connected
- \*Share With Friends
- \*and much more!

We decided to start a monthly newsletter to keep everyone up to date on what is going on. Well, we will try to get it out monthly and if not, we will send out a calendar so you can keep up to date on all of the happenings.

We have been through much change last year. We started Saturday Night Church and it has been a great success with a good crowd each week, and many people coming to the Lord! Calvary Christian Academy continues to grow so we moved our church office out into a modular building to make more room, praise God! We have been adding on to our building; soon we will have bathrooms and a cry room! Praise God for all the faithful folks who have helped out. In October we sent the Hurlless' to Homer, Alaska to plant a Church (update inside). God also provided new staff for the Church, first calling a new youth pastor Trevor Sund, and providing a new administrative assistant Lacey Myers. We had the privilege of sending off one of our young men, Ryan Coleman, to Bible college in Hungary.

We are looking forward to the new year of serving Jesus and trusting His leading as we move forward. As a congregation let's make this year about knowing Jesus and making Him Known! We look forward to seeing you this year at Church.

**Start your New Year off right! Our gift to you.**  
**rightnow MEDIA**  
 ccemmett.org/rightnow

# A Word From Our Pastor



Pastor Michael Hughes

## Do I have to go to Church?

It seems every Sunday growing up I asked that question. Do I have to go to Church? One Sunday in protest I put on jeans and a polo shirt instead of my standard 3 piece suit, shirt, black shoes, and finished with a smart looking clip-on tie. My hope was my parents would think, we are going to be late so we'll just leave him. Yeah, that didn't work. Church now is the highlight of my week, not just because I am the pastor, it is because I am saved.

I guess the question is, how does Church fit into "being saved?" Is it required, and if not, why go? Believe me I understand what a drag it can be if you don't want to go. As a pastor I don't necessarily want people at Church who don't want to be there. Nobody wants to be in a place where everyone is bored and depressed. Maybe some misunderstand why we go to Church in the first place. So let's look at some reasons for going to Church, and how it might apply to us.

**1. You are a baby!** I mean, congratulations! You were just born again or you still feel new to the faith. It is crucial for a new Christian to attend Church for a couple reasons. First you need to learn the word. "as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious." (1 Peter 2:2-3).

Secondly, you need to meet people who also love Jesus and can help you in your walk with Him. As a new Christian you are a target for the enemy and if you don't go to church it will be harder to overcome his attacks. "Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8.) It is essential to have a strong group of believers to turn to.

**2. You are growing.** A growing child becomes less dependent. You can feed yourself and often you don't realize the need for others to help. However, the truth is you need them more than ever, and they need you. So too for us as Christians. It is at this stage we need to move to the next step by finding a place where we can serve the body of Christ with the gifts and resources God has given us (see Romans 12:1-18). In this way we invest in His people and we then become productive in advancing His kingdom.



**3. You are all grown up!** You have spiritual disciplines of reading the Word, prayer, sharing your faith, and serving in ministries. You are walking with the Lord! So does this mean you no longer need Church? Maybe not as much, however the Church does need you. At this point you shouldn't be coming for your benefit. Instead, you should be coming armed with the tools to serve, pray for, and to bless the people around you. Christianity isn't a spectator sport, if you are saved then you are in the battle, and God wants to use you.

"Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone. See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to all people. Always be joyful. Never stop praying." (1 Thessalonians 5:14-17.) What would church be like if we all asked God to use us each week? I have talked to older saints who have this servant mindset. They will tell you they need the weekly sermon's more than when they were young. They have discovered that when you use what you learn, you will always be hungry for more.

In closing, I often see the enemy working very hard to keep people from making Church a priority. So going into this new year it is my prayer that this will encourage you to see the importance of attending Church not only for yourself, but for others as well...maybe this is the year that you invite that neighbor or coworker to church with you. God bless you all. "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near." (Hebrews 10:24-25)  
Blessings, Pastor Mike

# Homer, Alaska Mission



Greetings from Homer, Alaska! We wanted to wish our church family in Idaho a happy New Year's and send you an update of our adventures. God has been so gracious to us throughout this whole journey, and we are so overwhelmed by how He has provided for our family "exceedingly, abundantly, above all we could ask or think."

Our trip took a total of 9 days to complete. We were warned about so many dangers and difficulties we might encounter on the road: snow and ice, breaking down in the middle of nowhere, wildlife, etc. Needless to say, we had some apprehensions, but truly felt that the Lord was going to be our guide and bring us through safely. God did indeed

get us up here without a hitch! Our road trip went amazingly well and we felt God's hand with us, as well as the prayers of the saints lifting us up all the way. What an incredible experience!

We arrived in Homer on November 5 ready to move into a small rental house we had reserved. When we got here, however, we discovered that this home was not structurally sound or weather ready. We knew God had a plan, but couldn't help but wonder what would happen next.



We began searching earnestly for an alternative, but there wasn't much left to choose from. We waited it out in our hotel room for a few days, and asked God to show us what to do.

Two days later, our property manager said there was a house that had just become available. It was a large, fully furnished vacation rental home, and was about the same price as the other places we had looked at. We went to check it out, and felt like God had saved it just for us! We moved in the next day.

After getting settled into the new home and back into a routine, we felt that it was time to get started with the church plant. By the Lord's guidance, we set up a "getting-to-know-you" event in town, and prayed that God would bring the people He wanted to be there. We were so nervous that no one would show up, but by His grace, we had 4 families come to meet with us. It is truly amazing how these people were hand-picked by the Lord to be there!

We have been spending this last month meeting in our home each Sunday morning for a Bible study in the book of Romans. It has been a tremendous blessing! Our little group of believers is starting to feel more and more like a family, and we have been so blessed getting to know each one of them better and build those relationships.



Our children have been adjusting so well and are enjoying homeschooling and exploring their new environment. There is an abundance of activities for kids in this community, which also make for wonderful opportunities to get to know people. We feel that God is using this experience to strengthen our family bonds.

Please continue to pray for our family, the people of Homer, and for our little fellowship of believers. Specifically concerning the future vision and growth of the church, and for those open doors from the Lord. Thank you for all of your support, love, and encouragement! We miss each one of you dearly, and keep you in our prayers as well. God bless you and have a wonderful New Year!

