

Glennallen, Copper Basin Assembly of God

Est. 1970 by Ervin Hochstatter
Pastors in 2018: Clarence and Carol Catledge

Approximately 190 road miles east of Anchorage, the community of Glennallen rests along the Glenn Highway at its junction with the Richardson Highway (Explore North). According to Explore North, the site for the community did not have early native occupation, rather, the name “Glennallen” was derived from Maj. Edwin



Glenn and Lt. Henry Allen, both leaders in the early explorations of the Copper River region.” The Copper Valley “encompasses approximately 20,649 square miles and is bounded by the Chugach National Forest to the south, the Alaska Range to the north, the Wrangell Mountains of Wrangell-St Elias National Park and Preserve to the east, and the Talkeetna and Chugach Mountains to the west” (Chamber of Commerce). While approximately 3,000 people live in the vast region (the size of Virginia), 483 people reside in Glennallen in 2010 (City Data). Over the last ten years, the economy has suffered causing the property values and population to decrease.



Ervin and Mrs. Hochstatter – 1970 - 1973

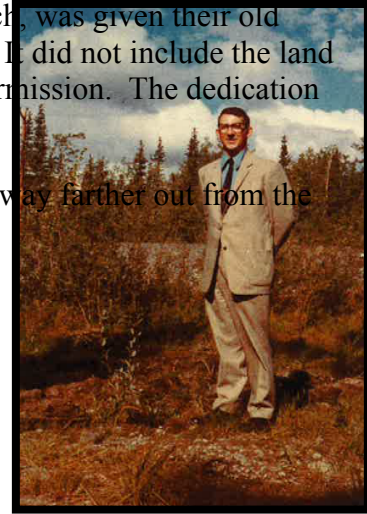
An excerpt from B. P. Wilson’s book provides a rich understanding of the early beginnings of the Assembly of God work in the Copper Basin area.

“Ervin Hochstatter started services in the American Legion hall on August 13, 1970. For a time, he used the Pentecostal Church of God building in

1971. He, by the courtesy of the Catholic Church, was given their old building on the Richardson Highway for \$1.00. It did not include the land as the Catholic Church only used the land by permission. The dedication was July 26, 1971.

Property was bought along the Richardson Highway farther out from the location of the former Catholic Church. He prepared to build, but first moved his trailer house to the property to make satisfactory living for his family. Before he finished getting his trailer house prepared and all the necessary work accomplished, he was murdered on October 19, 1973.

At the time of his murder, he was driving a mail route that would ultimately take him to Tok. While he was driving along the highway, a fellow whom he had never seen shot at him. He stopped and fell on the highway. His murderer was soon tracked down and arrested” (Wilson, 177-118).



Weldyn and Barbara Houger – October 1974 - 1978

In this excerpt from the *Alaska Missionary*, Pastor Houger described the ministry in Glennallen.



“When we started our first service in October of 1974 there were three families represented (8 people). We began to grow, and it was exciting to see new faces come into the services. It didn’t take too long to see that we needed a new building.

For the next two years, the church saved up \$12,000 and received a loan from the Krause Loan Fund for \$20,000. On May 31, 1977, we poured the footing of the new church. We had several crews come and

help us. We say a big thanks to the crews that came from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Montana, and Utah. Then on October 2, 1977, the day we all looked forward to, we had our first service in the basement of the new church. The Pastor has kept a fairly close account of the free labor that went into the building and it totaled 1750 hours. Which means the church saved \$17,500 in added cost. PTL! It pays to work for the Lord! The church dedication was on March 19, 1978 in which Supt. Leisy was the speaker and Muldoon Assembly provided special music. Many of the community was out



and we heard many good reports of the dedication. We are thankful that we can be part of the ‘team of God’ to put another ‘lighthouse’ in this community.”

Samuel and Beverly Humphreys – September 1978 – June 1982

In September of 1978, Pastor Sam Humphreys began to minister in Copper Basin. The 1979 Annual Church Ministries Report (ACMR) indicates seventy adherents with sixty-two people in average Sunday morning worship attendance. During 1979, sixteen people became followers of Christ, thirteen people were baptized, and six people were filled with the Holy Spirit.

The congregation soon outgrew their new facility so under Pastor Humphreys’ leadership a new sanctuary was designed and built. This new building was dedicated on August 16, 1981. Special guests in attendance at the dedication service included Dale Umphrey, Bruce Headley (Asst. Pastor at Cooper Basin Assembly), Patrick Donadio (Central Region Presbyterian), Dan Betzer (Revivaltime Evangelist from Springfield, MO), and Alaska Supt. Darrell Redfearn. Pastor Humphreys admonished the attendees to “use this day as a time not only to dedicate the new building to God’s work, but also to rededicate ourselves, our talents, and our gifts to His service.”

Pastor Humphreys
resigned in June of 1982.

Matthew and Nancy Place – 1982 – 1985

Some of the members of
the congregation during
the Place tenure included

Clarence and Carol Catledge, Jo and Gary Lewis, Sue and Roy Becker, Norma White, Judy Tolman, Sylvia Pine, and Michelle Masters.



Michael and Sue Herr – June 1985 - 1986

While Michael and Sue only served at Copper Basin Assembly for about a year, Pastor Herr worked on improving the appearance of the grounds and building. Records indicate Sunday school, youth group, and women's ministries were active programs during the Herr pastorate. Average attendance in 1985 was sixty people on Sunday morning and some of the families involved in the congregation were the Beckers, Catledges, Hartmans, Hurshs, and Whites. Pastor Michael in a July 1985 report noted, "There has been a constant revival within the people's spirit. People are excited about serving the Lord and are expecting Him to do great things in the church and through them." On December 8, 1985, the church was officially set in order, and the members of the Board of Directors at Copper Basin Assembly of God, Inc. were Michael Herr, Clarence Catledge, Roy Becker, and Albert Hartman.

Wallace Mann – September 1986 – 1987

The Mann family transferred from the Arkansas District and arrived Glennallen in September 1986, with their first official service in October. Approximately thirty people were in regular attendance, and Carol Catledge was the Church Treasurer and Susan Becker was the Board Secretary. The Mann family only stayed in Glennallen for approximately six months.



Clarence and Carol Catledge – 1987 – present

The Catledge family began pastoring in 1987 with thirty-five in average attendance and William Reilley was the Associate Pastor. In the late 1980s a day care was formed, and in 1989 there were sixty-two attendees. In the Catledges thirty-year pastoral ministry in Glennallen, attendance has averaged as high as forty-nine in 1997 and as low as twenty-one people in 2016. In the increase of the 1990s, the church celebrated seventeen people being baptized in water in 1992 and nineteen people following the Lord in water baptism in 1993. During that time period, Michelle Masters, Roy Becker, and Sherri Catledge served on the leadership team of the church. One very happy occasion for the church was the day they "burned the mortgage."

In his 2018 report to the Alaska Ministry Network, Pastor Catledge wrote, "Our

congregation has lost a couple more people this year due to the shrinking of the community. Our services have been good, and the congregation has been growing



spiritually if not in numbers.” Discussing the outreach of the congregation, Pastor Catledge noted, “The bright spot continues to be the Saturday community craft time at the church. This does not sound very “churchy,” but we do have Bible reading and a short devotional. Several people are asking questions about the Bible and how current events fit in. Also, we have had the opportunity to pray for individuals during class time, especially for physical healing. Several of these prayers have had immediate

effect which encourages others to get involved.”

Authors: Susan Kesler and Fay Niemann

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