

Middle School Update

February 24, 2008

Yikes! Pikes!

Middle schoolers seek to battle evil! We're hoping to go pike fishing (and eating). To this end, we're working to shanghai some adults who love fishing. Sam and Jasmin felt their Dad's might be interested, and I've heard that Sam Ivey, a fishery biologist, is a pike expert.

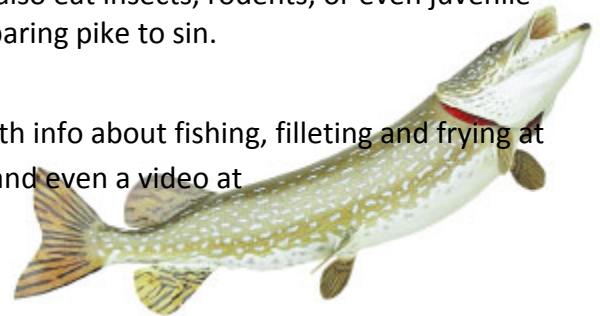
The vision includes cocoa and Russian tea on the ice, and a scrumptious pike feast to round out the adventure. The pike feast might happen on a different day than the fishing excursion. Perhaps we'll share our catch with others in the congregation at a potluck.

I double checked the fishing regulations, and Alaskans under age 16 don't need a license. Adults may purchase their license on-line (at <http://www.admin.adfg.state.ak.us/license/buyonline.html>).

Northern pike are **not** native to Southcentral Alaska. Northern pike are known to travel extensively in search of food. They have voracious appetites. Their feeding technique has often been described as similar to shark or barracuda. They will attempt to eat any prey up to (and sometimes over) one-half their own size. The pike's favorite food is fish, including rainbow trout, juvenile salmon, and other pike. Studies in the Susitna River drainage show that pike favor salmon, trout, and grayling. They will also eat insects, rodents, or even juvenile ducks, small muskrats, and beavers. For our purposes, we'll be comparing pike to sin.

More information is at the state Fish and Game website:

<http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/region2/pike/index.cfm>, a pdf file with info about fishing, filleting and frying at <http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/region2/pdfpubs/NorthernPike.pdf> and even a video at <http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/region2/pike/pikevideo.cfm>.



Guatemalan Update



The Great Guatemalan Chocolate Fair for Heidi was a *great success!* Incredible organization and work on the part of dedicated and talented middle schoolers and the faithful and strategic support of parents created a wonderful experience for everyone, and garnered \$312.45 for Heidi. Beautiful chocolate gift baskets were won by Sarah Maffe, Deb Melton, and Julie Sullivan. Thank you to everyone who shared in the Great Guatemalan Chocolate Fair!



Medieval Times

We continue our exploration of Medieval times through the armor of God. We've chatted about the sword of the spirit, the shield of faith, and the helmet of salvation. Over the next few weeks we'll talk about the breastplate of righteousness, the belt of truth (when was the last time you were belted with the truth?), and gospel boots.

The Great Guatemalan Chocolate Fair



Sincerely,
--Bonnie

Phone/fax/message: 746-7571

bga@mtaonline.net