



AC3 INVESTIGATOR

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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Fresh Lobby Colors for Spring

A hardy, THANK YOU!" to the volunteer team who stepped up and beautified the Lobby. The effort was timed with spring to get AC3 looking sharp for our Easter presentations (607 people attended adult services on Easter weekend by the way!)

You may also have noticed that the "JUST FOR FUN" pillars above the coffee counter have been replaced by a digital picture frame. Very cool!

These changes reflect the beginnings of a new effort to make the Lobby:

- "Cleaner"
- More roomy
- More user friendly
- Effective
- Comfortable



We will be experimenting with different

WDYL Returns to Community Services in May

We will be continuing with the second of our THREE LOVES: Loving the Church, and in June, we will be moving on to our final Love: Loving the Lost.

Remember these important dates as you plan your **May/June calendars:**

Monday May 12th and May 26th: Hoo Doo Art Crew. AC3 artists invite you to join them in creating WDYL artwork reflecting their experience throughout the series. Participants will be given opportunities to present their work at the end of each of the three "love" segments. This is open to anyone (no art experience required) who would like to explore

ways to keep this over the next few months, and come Fall, there will be a cool surprise... so stay tuned!

All of this is brought to you by your AC3 Communications Team. We are responsible for the web site, printed materials, promotional materials, newsletter, our Lobby Greeters and the Information desk.

Other things to look for in the near future from your Communications team:

- A new and improved AC3 Website
- Up-dated e-mail communications
- Lots more!

If you're interested in the kinds of things the Communications Team does...feel free to contact Julie LaMascus or Dan Hazen at the church office (360) 659-7335 or by email@ julie@ac3.org, danh@ac3.org .

"different" ways to express worship.

Sunday May 25th: NETWORK Dishmixer: Over 50 people enjoyed a meal, time together and some great learning at our FIRST Dishmixer back in February. THIS time we will be taking the Network class together where you can learn how to get your spiritual gifts, passions and personal style connected to the mission of the church in fruitful and fulfilling ways. Enjoy a pot-luck style meal and some hang out time together.

Everybody sing it now..."*bomp de bomp de bomp...de bomp bomp...WHO DO YOU LUUUUUUUUV?"*



Malawi Bound Buses Roll In

Living Waters—Brazil & Malawi Updates

BRAZIL—The Mossoro river in Mossoro Brazil, home of the Alfa school and Cristo E Vida Church (Project Va) has flooded for the first time in over 20 years and caused some wide spread damage, including forcing at least one Alfa family from their home.

They are safe right now with temporary housing being provided by the church, but there will be additional needs as the flood waters recede.

Please pray for all the people of Mossoro and that Cristo E Vida would serve as a safe place for those in need, shining Jesus love

to a hurting community.

MALAWI- Dave Epperson has been actively working out some small business details in Africa during the month of April. By securing buses for a small business venture in Malawi, he hopes to employ some Malawians which can help build their economic base. These buses will also provide transportation for our 2008 Mission Teams.

For more information about Brazil and Malawi, go to AC3's 2nd website @ www.allencreekcommunitychurch.org/

"Like a child looking for an Easter Egg in the grass, when I spot one of these new seedlings coming up, my eyes open wide and a big smile comes across my face."

Garden Gifts from Mom - Lucy Venezia

I am no doubt the luckiest person in the world when it comes to moms. She is a remarkable lady with many skills and talents, but today I want to tell you about just one of them. My mom is a master gardener, and every plant she puts in the ground grows big and beautiful. I tease her sometimes about her green thumb and that she must get up in the middle of the night to fertilize all her plants while everyone else is sleeping. She smiles and shakes her head in modesty. As modest as mom is, she was awarded the prestige's "Golden Spade" award by the Seattle Horticultural Society in 1996. She is an active member of the Monroe Garden Club, where she shares her garden expertise with guests from around the region. The local nurseries list her garden as one of the tours on the "Best Botanical Gardens" they visit each year. I could go on, but you get the general idea.

Mom lives in a small apartment complex in Monroe. She has a small patio out back and about 250 square feet of garden beds that she designed, and built up through the years. The only problem is, she grows things so well that the plants start taking over and before you know it, she has to thin

them out, and this is where I receive the bounty of mom's great green thumb.

I live on two acres of land that my husband. Ed and I call our little piece of paradise, and most of the beautiful flowers, trees, shrubs and bulbs growing there are from Mom's little garden in Monroe. Pretty Lucky aren't I, especially if you have checked out the price of plants these days, especially perennials.

Here is the real fun part of this plant adoption plan that mom and I have. I not only get some great looking plants, but also a little "surprise plant" buried below the soil that starts coming up along side the bigger one. How does this happen., well I figured it out and here is my observation. When I watch mom in her garden, she is always digging up, separating plants and turning the surrounding soil. In this process some roots and off shoots break from plants such as daffodils, crocus, lilies, sedums, even snap dragon seedlings. She then uses the same soil to pot up my plants, and I get a little *free garden gift* that will grow and bloom into a full size plant
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If you would like to plan and possibly plant a vegetable garden to help feed our local community, contact Lucy Venezia @ edlucy@cedarcomm.com. Preliminary planning for a simple Bible study and a gardening small group is under way!

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someday. Like a child looking for an Easter Egg in the grass, when I spot one of these new seedlings coming up, my eyes open wide and a big smile comes across my face. Now that's what I call simple pleasures in life.

Just like mom, I love gardening and each time I walk around my yard, even if I am alone, she is in my heart and everywhere I see beautiful plants growing.

Thank you mom.

Geezer's Corner - Larry Fish

Back in the day when I was in high school (it was the Korean conflict NOT the Civil War) we didn't have enough money to afford "store bought" shirts or sweaters and the smock like shirts my Mom sewed for me was all I had. I spent little or no thought about my appearance then (except for scrubbing behind my ears and doing a careful toe jam inspection) and fifty years later I'm still not giving it any greater time or concern.

However, time does seem to alter our appearance and those things we used to take pride in are a little different, for example: those rock hard bulging biceps now appear to sag with the consistency of freshly undercooked poached eggs; those thirty and thirty-two inch jeans have been replaced by denim that is prudently purchased in bulk from Seattle Tent and Awning; the thick dark brown mane has thinned to the point that a comb over would be necessary except my male pattern baldness has started on top of my head and the thin salt and pepper hair in front naturally flows over it; I ate one too many jelly

Small Group Q&A Panel in Community Services May 17/18

During the community services on **May 17th & 18th**, we will have a speaker panel of small group leaders sharing the in's and out's of what small groups are all about.

We may even get lucky and see a guest appearances from 'The Church Lady', 'Pastor Pain' and/or 'Adolf LaLaine'!

sandwiches (my favorite jelly is MGD) and my chest slipped down to where my tummy is; after fifty years of neglect, miraculously, my teeth gave up on me and I got the new kind you can't floss; the long sweet conversations my lovely wife and I used to share have shortened to me saying, "huh?" or "what did you say?"; my glasses which I dawned in fifth grade now meet boy scout magnification certification for starting fires in a monsoon; and my memory which used to be reliable has a, I mean uh... don't that beat all, crud, I forgot.

Vanity, vanity, all is vanity! If I ever had anything to be vain about it is gone now. But the one thing that seems to have gotten better in time is my sense of humor. I get the last laugh! God has directed Brad Pitt, George Clooney, Tom Cruise and you to love this fat old balding guy with the bad memory.

Go Jesus, go Jesus, go Jesus go! You are awesome Lord! HA HA, ha ha, ha ha, ha ha, ha ha, ha.

Love, Geezer
(Larry) Fish

ALL IN building updates
can be found @ www.ac3.org/allin.htm



Upcoming Connection Service Topics

Pray for and plan ahead to invite your friends to the following upcoming Connection Services!

⊖ **MAY**

After Happily Ever
Understanding God's Design for Marriage and Communication

⊖ **JUNE—How Can I Believe When...**

FAQ about God and Christianity

⊖ **JULY—Peter**

The Rockin' Disciple

⊖ **AUGUST PAUSE**

VisionCast AC3 Retreat 8/22-24th

Mark your calendar's now! Join us at our annual weekend retreat for a time of refreshing and renewal.

Retreat Highlights Include:

- ☆ Ministry Sessions
- ☆ Worship
- ☆ Pickle Ball
- ☆ Softball
- ☆ Swimming
- ☆ Beach Volleyball
- ☆ Large Waterslide
- ☆ Anti-Talent Show
- ☆ AND much more!

Watch for retreat details to be posted during early summer!



Noah's Ark & Interactive Fun



Wii are Fisher's of Men



Malawi Mochas & More...

Available soon
before and after
weekend services.

Your Latte
purchases supports
Malawi Team!



Wii have fun in Kreek Kids! (0-5th Grades)

From a large cut out of Noah's Ark in our preschool department to using the popular Nintendo Wii game in our K-5th grade classroom, we like to make Bible learning and review time fun!

That's because we believe children learn best when teaching is creative, child-friendly, appropriate, application-based and of course, fun.

If you're looking for a way to get your

God-given gifts in the game, Kreek Kids is looking for a few extra hands during our weekend Community services; 5:30 pm (Sat) and 9 am (Sun) from now through the summer months.

Have leadership skills? Consider joining our Key Leader Team as the Nursery/Toddler Director. Contact Twila @ 360-659-7335—twila.allencreek@verizon.net or Jessieanna @ 360-939-2401 jessieanna@ac3.org.

RYM and Youth Culture 101 (6th-12th Grades)

Hey all...The RYM summer newsletter and calendar is now posted on the AC3 website @ http://www.ac3.org/KKY_News/y_current.htm. Check it out and make sure to pencil the dates into your family calendar!!

I've also posted some great parenting articles from "Youth Culture 101" that I have

found very interesting @ www.ac3.org/youth

Enjoy! Jenn—RYM Director 425-346-0207

**ESPECIALLY FOR PARENTS: HELP-
ING TEENAGERS FIND THEIR
PLACES IN GOD'S STORY**

[\[PART 1\]](#) [\[PART 2\]](#)

The Club - Richard Boas

God can speak to us in many ways and at different times. Some of my most memorable conversations have come in the shower. Why? Well, there is little to distract me; unless someone tried to make the shampoo "stretch" further by dumping water in it. Little brings you to full consciousness like dumping cold water over your head when you least expect it. I don't think my high pitched squeal has woke any family members as of yet but there will undoubtedly be more opportunities. I must fill in a few blanks before I share what God said to me recently:

I have a good friend and business associate, we'll call him Scott, and he refers well over six figures annually to my remodel business. Recently he invited me to a party with his friends to celebrate his wife's promotion.

Now I only know Scott on a professional level, I have met none of his friends and his wife only a few times. None the less; when someone who refers a lot of work to your business invites you to a party not going is not an option. Out of respect I gladly said I would be there.

I arrived early as this was a surprise party; there was a DJ and full service bar for entertainment. Not being a drinker and not knowing any of the songs that were playing made me uncomfortable from the start. I am by nature a pretty outgoing person so to make me uneasy takes a lot, I took solace in the fact that Scott was a very likeable person and his friends were bound to be the same.

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From April Snow to Disney Shows - May/June Connection Services

Those of us who, with a resigned shrug, scrape the snow off our windshields in the middle of April, have come to expect the unexpected. In that respect, AC3 Connection Services never let us down! During May, for instance, AC3 welcomes an array of Disney princesses. In the series "After Happily Ever," Disney movie themes serve as a sounding board for a frank exploration of God's design for marriage. Services will explore issues such as male-female communication, sexuality and resolving conflict. June topics will be equally apt and fascinating as we explore thorny

questions about God and the Bible, such as how God can exist in concert with an evil world, science vs. the Bible, evidence of God's existence and the hypocrisy of Christians. You definitely won't want to miss these fun and interesting topics. Bring a friend!



Connection Service: Saturday at 7:00 pm & Sunday 10:30 am



AC3 Answer Man



Q. Where did the idea of baptism come from? What is the significance of baptism and is it really necessary?

A. Once a person makes a decision to follow Christ, the Bible says we are to make our personal decision public. Baptism is a simple and symbolic ceremony that shows the world that we have crossed over the line from being a seeker to being a believer.

A believer is someone who realizes that their sin separates them from God. They know they will never be good enough to reach God through their good works or religious activities. They depend on Jesus Christ's death on the cross to pay for their sins and understand that he's the only one that can bridge the gap between them and God.

If you are a new believer, the next step on your spiritual journey may be to consider baptism. Just as a bride and groom show that they love one another through a marriage ceremony, a new believer should also want to show the world through baptism of their new union with Christ. Baptism is a great time to celebrate with family and friends what has happened in your spiritual life.

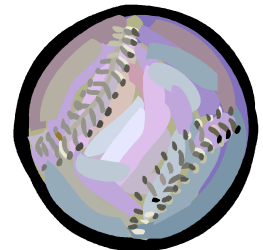
Baptism Class on 4/30 @ 7 PM. Come and get your baptism questions answered! If you are unable to attend Baptism class but you have additional questions or would like to be part of our May baptism, please email Pastor Rick rickt@ac3.org or call the church office at 360-659-7335.



AC3 Soccer

is now playing at the Tallmadge Home. Sundays 3-5 PM (Except for 5/4, playing on 5/3 @ 1pm instead).

Contact Tani at 360-658-4956 with your questions. (16 years and older)



AC3 Softball Teams

play weekly @ MPHS on Sundays and Mondays. Check the lobby sports pillar for times and then come and cheer our teams on!

Calendar of Events May—August

AC3 Churchwide Events:

May 4th: Malawi Update BBQ
Aug. 7th-9th: Leadership Summit
Aug 10th: Summer Jubilee
Aug. 22nd-24th AC3 Vision Cast

Special Community Services:

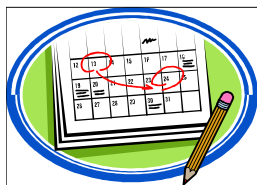
May 3rd: Baptism
May 4th: Malawi Guest Speaker
May 10/11th: Child Dedication
and Mother's Day
May 17/18th: Small Group Panel
May 25th: WDYL DishMixer
June 14/15th: Grads and Dad's Day

Men's Upcoming Events:

Apr. 26th: Beach bon fire and lunch
May 31st: Paintball
Jun. 28th: Breakfast @ AC3 7-9 am
July 26th: Men's Rope Course:
Team Building

RYM 6th-12th Events:

June 1st: BBQ
June 18th: Mariner's Game
July 2nd: Putt Putt Golf
Aug. 9-16th: Camp Epoch
Aug. 27th: Outdoor Movie Night



[Online Church Calendar](#)

You can find the entire AC3 church calendar of events online @ www.ac3.org under the **When & Where** link!

The Club - Richard Boas (Continued from page 5)

I stood off in a corner waiting and hoping for someone to arrive that I recognized all the while smiling at everyone who entered. Before long the room was filled with over thirty people and to my dismay I knew none of them. Scott would be arriving with his wife soon so it was up to me to try and fit in. I began to move through the crowd making eye contact with as many as I could, hoping that someone would acknowledge and turn to greet me. Alas none did. It was very clear that all who were there knew each other and were close. I soon found myself again on the outskirts drinking a diet Coke when:

“How long have you been part of the club?” Asked the photographer who had sneaked up behind me. “The Club?” I inquired. “You know ‘The Club’? It’s been almost three years for me”, he replied.

“Well, I only know Scott on a professional level. To be honest I don’t know anyone here”, I responded hoping that my obvious hint that I needed some introductions would be productive.

“Oh, it’s a great bunch”, he said. “I need to get things set up now” and he walked away.

It wasn’t long after Scott arrived with his wife that I left. He was clearly excited to see all his friends and hadn’t noticed me.

Fast forward now to the shower the next morning as I was thinking about the previous night. I recalled how uncomfortable I felt and how I wished that just one person would have said “hello”. I certainly would have stayed if someone had. God, at that very moment, interrupted my pity-party:

“That’s how people feel going to church for the first time.”

I stood there pondering what had been said. He proceeded to remind me that there is no greater longing for any human than to be loved and to be known. He said we spend our lives waving our accomplishments, possessions, outward appearances and credentials like a flag saying, “Look at me” See what I have done?” All in an attempt to be noticed, to feel a sense of purpose and acceptance for whom we are.

The message was clear; I needed to be the one that came out of the crowd and say “hello”. God reminded me how it feels to be in a strange place, knowing few people if any. Hearing songs I don’t know and seeing people gathered in small groups – their backs turned towards those who aren’t a part of the conversation. It begs to ask a question; Are we a group of people who dearly love each other and enjoy seeing each other every week but ignore those outside our group of friends as well? Is our “club” the church?

We can’t lose sight of the visitors; the ones who have been invited by someone who hasn’t arrived yet or those who are just checking us out. We cannot be like “The Club” and ignore those around us, we need to break away and seek out new faces in the crowd. Remember; after Jesus commanded us to love our God with all our heart, soul and might he told us to love our neighbors as our self. We cannot allow anyone to walk through the doors of Allen Creek and feel the way I did. It just takes a simple, “Hello”.