



# AC3

ALLEN CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

Bi-Monthly  
Newsletter

*“Spring is when  
you feel like  
whistling even  
with a shoe full  
of*



By Doug Larsen

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## Taking up the Towel

By Pastor Rick Thiessen

She taught Children's Church when I was a kid. There was nothing outstanding about her really; she was 4'11", a bit frumpy, and she's always seemed old to me. She had a thick German accent, and everyone, big and small, called her Grandma Buhler. She was like my mom, always calling me by my brother's names - only she'd look right at me before she'd get it right: "Mikal? Darwin? RIKERT!"

Even though she never got my name right, I loved that woman. Every Sunday, she voluntarily and joyfully entered a class full of 35 demon spawn bouncing off the walls. And with the energy of an 18 year old, she would enthusiastically animate a story from the Bible.

When I grew up, I got an adult perspective and appreciation for this woman. She was quiet with strangers, envied by NO ONE, had nothing the world considers valuable: money, fame, power, taste in clothes, possessions. She lived serving the kind of people (children) who don't readily gush about what her service meant to them, or how it changed our lives.

And I can imagine the world looked at Grandma Buhler and said:

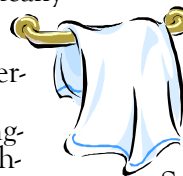
*If ever a woman had a right to complain, or take it easy, or look out for #1, or expect a return for years of service, it was this woman.*

Yet here was a person filled instead with a kind of joy that people envy, with a different outlook that set her apart, while giving her life away every week.

And this fulfilling pattern of life that she set for us kids (and our whole church) was simply an act of reverent mimicry of her Master. He was the one who, on the

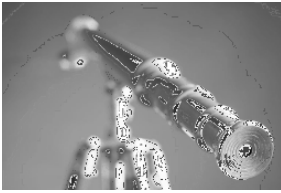
night he was betrayed, took off his outer clothing, wrapped a towel around his waist and picked up a wash basin. To do what? To wash feet! - the job reserved for the lowest household servant.

And then, 40 days later, when he started the church by pouring out his Power and Spirit on his followers, he did not immediately begin the work with professionals. The work of changing the world was not accomplished by endowing a super-class with power and privilege. A select few were not sanctioned to dictate from ivory towers. No, the pattern from the start of the Church was that everyone would have a gift, everyone would have a place, and everyone would be called to serve the mission in some way.



So the church was established as primarily a VOLUNTEER organization. Professional ministers were sanctioned in the early Church, but even Paul would do most of his work as a volunteer (1 Cor 9:4-15). Servanthood would be at the core of our DNA because the Master set the pattern for all (John 13:14-15).

That's the reason SERVANTHOOD is one of the CORE VALUES of AC3. I recently had lunch with someone relatively new to AC3 and one of their comments was it seems we have a large percentage of people involved here, helping out and doing it with a smile. That made me beam inside. And AC3, that needs to be our legacy more and more. We must get this in order to be a spectacle in this community and to achieve all our kingdom potential. Rick



## Re:vision Looking into the next 5 years

*Are you curious about the AC3 5-year plan? Wondering where all that survey data and study went? Well, here's your chance to see those results and what AC3 plans to work toward in the next 5 years.*

**April 18 & 19**

*Compassion*

**April 25 & 26**

*Alignment*

**May 2 & 3**

*Relationship*

**May 9 & 10**

*Hope*

*During this series there will be NO Community service ONLY*

*Connection at 6:30pm  
Saturdays & 10:30am  
Sundays*

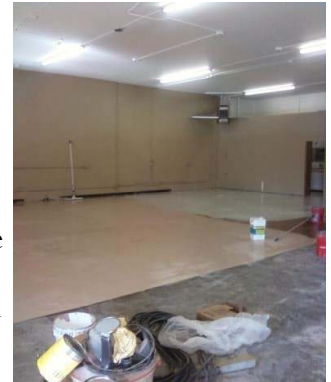
*The goal is to have the church offices up and running in the new space by May 1, and any required modifications to the existing building complete by September 1."*

## New Digs

By Dan Hazen

For the first time in seven years, AC3 has expanded our space!

- ◇ In 2002, we added the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Kreek Kids area, bringing our current building up to 9,500 square feet of occupied space.
- ◇ In 2005, the All In campaign was launched to raise capital for further expansion.
- ◇ Now, in 2009, AC3 has leased 3,200 square feet in the building immediately to our South!



AC3 volunteers are busily cleaning, moving, repairing, painting and preparing that space for Seeds of Grace to open this month.

For several years Seeds has been operating the Food and Clothing Distribution Center out of a small, unheated leased space three blocks North of the main AC3 building...not ANYMORE! Seeds will enjoy a 50% increase in overall space. They will have HEAT and the opportunity to extend additional ministries to the most needy in our community.

In addition, we will be relocating office, administration and storage spaces from our current building into the new space. This will accomplish two main objectives:

- 1) create more Lobby space in our existing building (as well as relieve other minor "pinch points") and
- 2) allow for a little more elbow room for offices and conference space.

The goal is to have the church offices up and running in the new space by May 1, and any required modifications to the existing building complete by September 1.

AC3 will be able to park in the 12 stalls immediately in front AND directly across from the new space. These spaces are shared with other tenants, but when open, we can use them.



AC3's mailing address will remain the same despite the new street address:

Mailing address: 7314 44<sup>th</sup> Ave NE

New street address (new office and Seeds of Grace): 7302 44<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Unit B2

**The Absolute Truth**

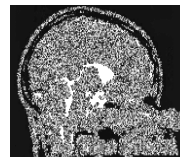
**By Shea Caperoon**

**Bob:** You know I'm just so tired of everyone telling me what I am supposed to believe!  
**Alice:** I understand - there are a lot of conflicting and confusing ideas being tossed around these days.  
**Bob:** I mean, who's to say really! I believe that you can't really know anything for sure.  
**Alice:** It sounds like you feel pretty strongly about that.  
**Bob:** Yeah, I really do.  
**Alice:** And you sound fairly certain it's true.  
**Bob:** Yeah - you know - now that I think about it, I'm absolutely certain it's true.  
**Alice:** So you believe it's absolutely true that no one can know anything is absolutely true?  
**Bob:** Well - umm... then I guess there is only one thing you can know for certain - that you cannot know anything for certain. Yeah - that's it.  
**Alice:** So there's only one exception to the rule?  
**Bob:** Yes.  
**Alice:** Oh, so there are two exceptions to the rule.  
**Bob:** Huh?  
**Alice:** Well, you've got the first exception, that it's true no one can know if anything is true, and then you have a second exception to say that there is only one exception - unless of course it's not true that there is only one exception.  
**Bob:** Yes it is, I mean no it's not, I mean umm... it looks like I need a new philosophy

Often we don't spend much time examining the ideas we are resting our entire existence upon, and we will often not see the contradictions staring us in the face. The best medicine for convoluted ideas is often a simple clarifying question or two. It's rare and wonderful to have a brave, caring someone in our lives who will say to us - "Really? Why do you think that?"

For example, I used to think that hell was like some slave labor camp where the devil was in charge of assigning the daily torture and mayhem. Someone asked me how I came to that conclusion. It took me a while to examine where the belief came from, but I realized that I picked up the idea from a cartoon when I was little. This really amounted to a confession that I held life-long beliefs about the world and about life and death that were fed to me by Saturday morning cartoons! Sometimes we may hold onto contradictions because we just don't have the information we need to see that there is a problem.

(continued on page 4)



**About AC3  
Volunteers!**

*"I thank God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."*  
 Philippians 1:3-5

**Thank you!  
Elders,  
Staff &  
Board**



**Men's Forum—WOW!**

**By James Brooke**

What if it's not about asking men to do more?

What if it's about asking them to BE more?

**'BE' God's Man**



WOW!!!! An average of 85-90 men in attendance, all four weeks, representing five churches from the Puget Sound area.

**WEEK 1:** "What a different perspective. I never saw my role, my purpose, that way before. I need to BE God's man." That is just one comment heard after Pastor Keith Kippen from Jake's House, challenged men, and many had a transforming night. Listen to Pastor Keith's message online at <http://www.ac3.org/Audio/Men'sForum/20090127.mp3>

(continued on page 5)



**RYM WING  
Camp**

**March 20-22 @  
Warm Beach**

RYM's crazy **Winter & spring or WING** camp is just around the corner! This year's camp is shaping up to be **AWESOME!!**

This year's speaker is Jens Sundem who runs an outreach summer camp and discipleship home for young adults in Missoula, MT. Worship will be lead by our own Frank Smith.

Cost is just \$80 for lodging, food and fun! *Information flyers and release forms can also be down-loaded @ [www.ac3.org/KKY\\_News/y\\_current.htm](http://www.ac3.org/KKY_News/y_current.htm) or on the youth pillar in the lobby!*

Sign up today!

Jenn 425.346.0207.



# NE XtGEN

Connecting the Next Generation to Christ

## February Art Elective was a Hit with 2nd-12th Grades

During February, Mavis Manton combined her gift of teaching and love for the arts with our 9 AM students. Her unique and friendly style was a hit with our 2nd-12th grades students for four weeks.

In this multi-age art class, Mavis and her helper Sue Harvey displayed "Art of the Masters" talked with students about God in relation to the print and ended each class on a high with students creating a master piece of their own!

If you have a fun hobby, craft skill, talent, a job you love, a special collection of items or a life lesson to share, consider sponsoring a four week elective just like Mavis did. It's a great way to get your



gifts in the mix while making a lasting impression on the next generation! Contact Twila, 360-659-7335 or by email @ [twila.allencreek@verizon.net](mailto:twila.allencreek@verizon.net)

Quick Bytes of Kreek Kids ministry updates can be found @ <http://www.ac3.org/kknews.htm>.

## The Absolute Truth

(continued from page 3)

For example, someone may not see any problem with the idea that all religions lead to the same God because they just don't know that Jesus proclaimed Himself to be the only true way to the Father (John 14:6). It is easy to live a contradiction in the dark, but as thinking Christians, we have the privilege to direct and focus the Light of the world into the darkness.

Many Christians will tell you that they did not suddenly discover one day that the Bible was the truth; rather, they slowly discovered that the ideas they were holding on to did not make much sense and they went looking for a truth that did. Some Christians feel it is their responsibility to tell every non-Christian they meet that their beliefs are flat-out wrong, but this approach is often thoughtless and far from loving. If you seek to know and truly understand the people around you, what they believe and why they believe it, you will help them see light with their own eyes and discover truth with their own minds.

May He grant to you today the strength to comprehend (Eph 3:14-21).

Shea Caperoon

## Sports Update

Ultimate Frisbee will play every other Sunday until Softball season begins; next game is Sunday March 22nd 1pm at Grove elementary school. Bring your cleats and your friends! You must be 16 or older to play.

**Men's Forum**

**(continued from page 3)**

**WEEK 2:** we were blessed to hear from Pastor Brad Hoganson from Word of Life. "Pastor Brad was absolutely right. I have what I need to be God's Man." was just one quote from the audience after Pastor Brad's humorous and practical application message. You can download his talk at <http://www.ac3.org/Audio/Men'sForum/20090203.mp3>

**WEEK 3:** God uses ordinary men. Do you know what "ordinary" in Greek means? Be sure to check out Turning Point's Sean Cannell's energetic and humorous talk at <http://www.ac3.org/Audio/Men'sForum/20090210.mp3> to find out why one of the men was heard saying "The more foolish I look, the more I'm an idiot, the more glory to God. I'm into that."

**WEEK 4:** Last, but certainly not least, week 4, our own pastor Rick Thiessen shared a message of BEING, not doing, and what a ripple effect it has. Some of our creativity, we here at AC3 are so well known for, was shared with the audience when Jim Allender and Bud Summers did a drama that really tugged at the guys memories and hearts. The MP3 of week 4 can be downloaded from <http://www.ac3.org/Audio/Men'sForum/20090217.mp3> hear why someone would say "Success is getting up more time than you fell down. Standing, staying for God. Being for God."

If you missed out on the Men's Forum this year, clear your calendars for *Jan. 26th, Feb. 2nd, 9th & 16th 2010*. You won't want to miss it.  
James Brooke -Small Group Coordinator

**FPU Financial Tip!  
(Financial Peace University)**

**By James Brooke  
& Julie LaMascus**

"Failure to plan is planning to fail." If you are a Dave Ramsey fan I'm sure you've heard those words often and as a planner I really appreciate the sentiment. One thing that I have never thought about, though, was how much I should really be setting aside each month to cover the costs of attending AC3 events. So to assist everyone here is a list of annual events that AC3 hosts and the estimated cost for each:

- ◇ Marriage Retreat \$200 per couple
- ◇ Men's Retreat \$100.00 per person
- ◇ Women's Retreat \$100.00 per person
- ◇ VisionCast \$100.00 per person
- ◇ Willow Creek's Leadership Summit \$130.00 per person

So, if a couple wanted to attend all of these events it would cost \$860.00. Wow! That seems like a lot of money and it is if it's unexpected. So let's do a little planning ahead; first, remember not everyone will attend every event so you will have to add up your own total. Remember, for many of these events you may also have daycare/babysitting, gas and food expenses to add as well. Then take that total and divide it by 12. This will give you the amount you should be setting aside every month. In my example (without any extras) that will be \$71.67. Or divide by 52 for \$16.54 a week or by day that's \$2.36, less than my daily latte! When I look at it like that and I know these are all events that have the potential to change my life for the better by bringing me closer to God and my AC3 family then I'm ready to start planning to succeed!

**The FIT-Tastic  
Egg Hunt**



**A Wee One  
Egg Hunt**

1-3 Years @ Noon

**FIT-Tastic  
Egg Hunt  
Obstacle Style**

4 -12 Years

Course Open 12-1:30 PM

- Fun Activities**
- Easter Story Tent**
- Coloring Book**
- Popcorn**
- Drumming Bunnies**
- Finale & More!**

**@ The Carabinieri  
Bar & 3rd ST  
Merchants on 3rd  
Street between  
State & Columbia  
SAT. April 4<sup>th</sup>**

**11-2 PM**

To insure an "EGG-stra" fun event for Marysville families, partner with us as we reach out to our community with the Carabinieri Espresso Bar and Marysville 3rd St. merchants.

Contact Chrissie @  
360.658.8691 or Twila  
@ 360-659-7335  
[youth@ac3.org](mailto:youth@ac3.org)

## AC3 Calendar

### AC3 Special Events:

Volunteer Appreciation—March  
“AC3 Cairn” kick-off meeting March  
25th, 6pm, at Nate Crain’s home  
Easter Services April 10, 11 & 12  
Summer Jubilee Rally April 26

### RYM 6th-12th Events:

Jr. High Retreat Mar. 20-22

### March/April Service Schedule:

Connection: Sat. 7 pm, Sun. 10:30 am

3/7&8 Giants of Silence concert

3/14&15 The Big Game

“Thorny Passages”

3/21&22 Google Earth, My Town

3/28&29 Google Earth, My Country

4/4&5 Google Earth, My World

See Easter schedule on right →

See Re:Vision on page 2 for rest of April

Community: Sat. 5:30 pm., Sun 9:00 am

3/7&8 None

3/14&15 None

3/21&22 Hitchhiker’s Guide to Paul’s  
Letters: 1 Timothy

3/28&29 Hitchhiker’s Guide to Paul’s  
Letters: Titus

4/4&5 Hitchhiker’s Guide to Paul’s  
Letters: 2 Timothy

See Easter schedule on right →

See Re:Vision on page 2 for rest of April

### 2009 Forums and Retreats:

Women’s Forum: Begins Monday, April  
13 for 9-weeks

Women’s Retreat: May 15-17

AC3 VisionCast Retreat: Aug. 28-30, 2009



Find the church calendar  
online @

[www.ac3.org/whenwhere.htm](http://www.ac3.org/whenwhere.htm)



## AC3 Answer Man

**Q. Easter is just around the corner! What events can I invite my friends to?**

**A.** Yes, Easter is April 12th this year and as usual we have a very special Easter presentation for you and your friends. Our service this year is called “The Wizard of ODD.” On Friday, April 10, and Saturday, April 11, we will have our classic dessert performances with table seating. You will need to reserve your tickets for these two performances. Tickets of course are FREE but seating is limited. Tickets will be available beginning March 21st before and after services or you can call the church office (360)659-7335 from Tuesday-Thursday, 10am to 4pm. On Easter Sunday, April 12th, we will have two open seating performances of “The Wizard of Odd” at 9am and 10:30am. NO ticket is required for these two performances.



Remember to stop by Third St. on Saturday, April 4th for

## The *Fit-Tastic* Egg Hunt



details available on page 5.