



A.llen C.reek S.cene I.nvestigator

Pause For The Cause

Letter from Rick about:
THE PAUSE FOR THE CAUSE.

Allen Creek has a tradition called the Pause for the Cause, where we suspend our weekend services during the month of August. This originally started as a way to rest our weekend volunteers, who endure an uniquely challenging schedule with AC3's two types of services and children's programs with their high degree of creativity and excellence.

However, over the 5 years since starting this unusual tradition, we've come to see the benefits to the whole organization beyond avoiding burnout. August at AC3 has now become a chance to focus in a distinctive way on our purposes, to Love God, Love the Church and Love the Lost.

Shouldn't we focus on these all the time? Obviously! But the Pause provides some unique opportunities to do so:

How about a spiritual retreat over a weekend? Just you and God in God's nature.

How about a special small group outing, or Sunday morning get together with your friends for a meal and worship time? That's how the first church often did it! (Acts 4:42-47)

How about sharing a coke over the fence with your neighbor? A conversation on a Sunday morning, when he doesn't expect you home.

I encourage you to enter into this year's Pause with an attitude that remembers that it was God who instituted concepts like leaving the ground fallow every 7 years, God who initiated the year of Jubilee, and it was God who wove the Sabbath (Rest) concept into the very fabric of creation and the moral law! Finally let me address the issue of pause giving. Maybe you wonder why you would continue to give in August when there's no weekend services. Here's some reasons I see:

First, because your giving should be first and foremost about gratitude and faithfulness to God and not the "pay to play" idea.

Second, because this is not a time when the church is "temporarily dead" and therefore doesn't need support. When something rests it is very much alive and still needs sustenance. The Pause ENHANCES the Cause – or it will if we approach it right.

Third, the staff will still be working. They have been directed to use the first weeks of the Pause to set an example for you by taking a mini-sabbatical for personal renewal, spiritual retreating, training etc. Some will then take well deserved vacation time, others will be building for the fall season. So understand they will be still be working hard and Jesus said, "...the worker deserves his wages." (Luke 10:7)

If you have feedback about the Pause, come tell me or another elder, we'd love to hear from you. And we'd love for AC3 to experience true renewal during this Pause so that we can be as healthy as possible – because healthy things grow!

Love,
Rick

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Summer 2003

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No Church! What will I do?

AC3 Annual Picnic



AC3 Beach Party!

Sunday, August 17th, 2003 10am-8pm

Lundeen Park on Lake Stevens

Beach Partiers! Grab your swimsuits, towels, beach balls and join us for a day at the beach! Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Bring a side dish or snack to share, along with your lawn chairs. There will be fun in the sun, games, relaxation and good fellowship all day long! See you there!

Directions:

Take Highway 9 to Lundeen Parkway, Lundeen park is on the south side of the road about ½ mile off of Hwy 9.

The Willow Creek Leadership Summit

Sharpening the Leader's Edge

August 7-9, 2003

For all the details check out the Willow Creek website

(www.willowcreek.com/conferences/summit/)

or call the church office at 360-659-7335

Visioncast
*One Hand Up,
One Hand Down*

Weekend Retreat
August 22nd-24th 2003

Pickup a registration packet in the lobby, call the church office 360-659-7335, or register online at ac3.org/visioncast/index.html

Highlights Include:

- ⇒Ministry Sessions
- ⇒Worship
- ⇒Hiking
- ⇒Swimming
- ⇒Free Time
- ⇒Indoor/Outdoor Basketball & Volleyball
- ⇒Game Night
- ⇒Anti-Talent Show
- ⇒AND much more!

Summer Saturday Nights!

Hang out with fellow AC3-ers during the Pause...

Food, Fun, Music and more!

An informal get-together will be hosted at the Brooke home each Saturday night during the Pause for the Cause. 6:00pm August 2, 9, and 16

Bring a "Summer-Time-Snack" to share!

Everyone is welcome – in fact, bring a friend!

The Brooke home is located at:

11018 Vernon Road

Lake Stevens

Contact the church office or visit www.ac3.org for directions and details

THE DAY TRIPPERS

ENVISION THIS...it's a beautiful, sunny day, the kids are *bo-red*, you've already used up all of your ideas the first week they were out of school...and it's only JULY!

What's a parent to do?

HAVE NO FEAR! THE DAY TRIPPERS ARE HERE!

Beginning June 25th, every Wednesday afternoon will be a chance for you and the kids to get together with others at AC3 and head out for a summertime adventure!

Trips currently planned include:

- Birch Bay water slides
- Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium
- Picnics
- Swimming

Or any other activities YOU can suggest!

Everyone is welcome to join – no obligation, just come on the trips you would like. Contact Lori Schultz (dlschultz@earthlink.net) or Debbie Henrichsen (henrichsen@email.msn.com) with any questions!



Master's Feast

Every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 5-7pm at Word of Life Church; 9028 51st Ave. NE Marysville. **Volunteers are needed!**

If you are looking for a way to make a difference in the lives of people in need here's your chance! Seeds of Grace has room for you if you would like to help shop, prepare food, serve meals, provide rides for attendees and especially to sit with folks and chat over dinner! Please contact Dee Turner at: 360-653-5942, 360-653-1336, or 425-876-6184 or email: Daezhavue@juno.com for more information on this or any other Seeds of Grace opportunities too!



Rewind Group – Every Monday evening at 7:00pm in the upstairs education room. If you've ever wanted to dig deeper into the message you hear on Sunday morning in Community, this is the place for you. Contact Bart Klett (v-bartk@microsoft.com) with questions.

We will not be meeting during the PAUSE! We will be returning in September.

Congratulations High School Graduates of 2003!

Christopher Burton, Rachel LaMascus, Greg Lincoln and Justin Holland

There are many forces that motivate high school graduates; encouragement from their parents, a yearning to finish a long awaited goal, some are compelled by their peers and others understand the importance of getting their diploma and completing this academic challenge before they start their journey into adulthood. One important challenge or goal for a new graduate is a desire to BE someone, to make a difference in their world. We are thankful to say that we have graduating students attending AC3 who are already making a difference in their world and count the milestone of their graduation in 2003 as just one more step in fulfilling the will of God in their lives. Christopher Burton is looking forward to joining the Air Force where he will help protect our country and it's freedoms. Several of our graduates also serve in various ministries throughout AC3 and understand that there are things they can do now which they may not be able to do later. Rachel LaMascus has regularly helped out in our nursery program, Greg Lincoln has enjoyed serving in our drama department and is part of our youth leadership team and Justin Holland has served by writing dramas, acting, doing stage lighting and has recently joined our youth leadership team. They realize that being a youth has been a time to grow and serve the Lord with their lives, not something they will do later. They have taken up the challenge of 1Timothy 4:12. "Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." God wants our best! He wants it all, no matter what our age or our abilities. Nothing can ever make up for the tragedy of a wasted life. Graduates, do be careful and prayerful when making life choices. We encourage you to take time regularly to listen and consider God's will for your life. Keep your education and life's goals in their proper place. Always give priority to God's plan for your life and those around you. May your graduation be the beginning of even more service for Christ, rather than entering upon a life lived just for the things of this earth. Jesus said, "Whoever will save his life shall lose it; but whoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it" (Mark 8:35).

Twila Crain and Tom Ross

Senior High Director and Associate



It's Crazy! It's Just for 6th- 8th Graders! It's Wyldlife!!!

If you haven't heard about Wyldlife yet, then you're in for a treat! Wyldlife is just for junior high/middle school students and meets every other Tuesday at the Griffin's in north Marysville. This is an AWESOME ministry, designed to provide a fun place where junior high students can come to play games, be silly, AND hear the gospel. We have started taking AC3 junior high students to this event which is not affiliated with any church, but is a branch of Young Life Ministries for high school students.

If you have a desire to serve or give, Wyldlife is in need of you! We need PRAYER PARTNERS; people who are willing to pray every club night, as well as someone who wants to lead the prayer team. We also need DRIVERS- can you drive on Tuesday nights? There are always junior high students who need a ride. The last thing we need is FOOD SUPPLIES- would you like to help out but can't commit to Tuesdays? Snacks are served and you know how much food growing junior high students can eat! We need people who are willing to help provide these snacks. Or are you more interested in serving the Wyldlife Leaders? The club leaders meet at 5pm before club to prepare and pray- usually after a long day at work- they need someone (or a team) to volunteer to cook dinner for them. If you are interested in helping out with fundraisers or even as a leader we are in need of people in these areas as well.

If any of this interests you or you just want to check it out, contact me at sarah@ac3.org or 659-7335 or you can contact Valerie Gerry, a Wyldlife Ministry Coordinator, at 360.659.4291 or 425.268.7126 (cell).

Coming in September!

6:00 pm Saturday Evenings Connexus

10:30 am Sunday Morning Connection



In our Community Service on Sunday mornings at 8:45 am

Leadership Secrets of Jesus

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| Sept. 7 | He Had The Strength of Communion |
| Sept. 14 | He Had The Strength of Self-Leadership |
| Sept. 21 | He Had The Strength of Action |
| Sept. 28 | He Had The Strength of Relationships |

