

# AC3 INVESTIGATOR

Volume 6, Issue 3

May 2006

ALLEN CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

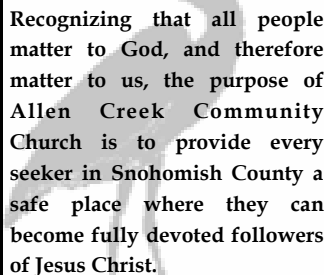
## Dreaming Big Dreams

I've been at AC3 its whole life, and I can honestly say that for me, this is the most adrenaline pumping, risk taking, faith building, life changing season so far in our history. As you know, ALL IN was a fantastic success. Look what God did!

The first miracle... while maintaining a safe, pressure free environment for seekers at AC3, we challenged the mature core of our church to see the huge opportunity in front of us if we could expand our space. And wow! You stepped up. To the tune of pressing past our sacrificial \$650,000 giving goal over the next three years to the tune of approximately \$672,000.

The second miracle, a family at AC3 decided to contribute a land gift which may be where AC3 will re-locate to in the future. It's worth 1-3 million dollars! We know many others are giving in a similar proportion for Christ's Kingdom and for ALL IN, however, this is the kind of gift that may change the direction of our campaign, giving us options we didn't DREAM of having when we started. It may be we can bypass *phase one* of our ALL IN plan which called for a move to leased, renovated warehouse space within 18-24 months. It may be, God willing, that we move right to *phase two* and occupy our own, owned building within roughly the same time frame!

**Continued on page 9**



Recognizing that all people matter to God, and therefore matter to us, the purpose of Allen Creek Community Church is to provide every seeker in Snohomish County a safe place where they can become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

### Inside this issue:

<b>Dreaming Big Dreams</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>T-shirt Design Contest</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>EGGstreme Fun for Families</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>New Kreek Kids Leaders</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Trust Challenge</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Applications</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Leadership Lines</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Strawberry Festival Outreach</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Current Input</b>	<b>13</b>

### Upcoming Series

#### Connection

#### **Stargazing:**

Pitfalls in the Seasons of Life

#### Community

#### **Romans Challenge:**

How do we win against sin?

## T-Shirt Design Contest: AC3's 10 Year Anniversary

Sharpen your pencils (or turn on your computer) as AC3 is holding a 10 year Anniversary T-shirt design contest!

**Deadline:** Midnight, June 30th, 2006

**Prizes:** The winner will receive a free T-shirt with the winning design and \$50 in cash

**Tips:**

- Use one, two or three colors maximum in your design.
- Simple designs generally look better and are easier to print. Use bold lines in your design - thin lines do not transfer to a t-shirt as well.
- Consider AC3's past, present and future as you design and create.



**Submission:** You can submit your design by email to Julie @ allen.creek@verizon.net.

You can also drop off a hard copy of your design at the church office.

**Happy sketching!**

## Summer Schedule Changes

If you are new to AC3 then our summer schedule may be a bit surprising.

- Our **Connexus**, Saturday 6:00pm, service will be going on it's hiatus at the end of May. We have found that when the sun comes out in the northwest on a Saturday evening the last place folks want to be is in an un-air conditioned auditorium. Connexus will return in the fall, **September 9th!**
- August PAUSE, is returning again this year too! From **August 1st through Labor Day** we suspend 'normal' services here is a list of our planned activities in August:
- August 6th 8:45am Prayer Path Service
- August 13th AC3 Picnic at Jennings Park
- August 18th - 20th Freedom Fest
- August 25th - 27th VisionCast 'Obey Your Thirst' Leadership Retreat.
- Labor Day weekend, September 3rd, Family Worship service at 8:45am (no child-care)

## Opportunity to Serve This Summer

We are looking for a few extra hands to help support the Kreek Kids Check-In team, teachers and classroom helpers during May, June and July.

There are a variety of areas where you can serve AC3 families in a 'one time serve' situation during the summer months.

Please contact Twila by email

or phone 360-659-7335 for additional details.

## Music CD's Now Available

Our favorite Canadian's have released their newest worship CD, **Restore**.

If you enjoyed the sounds of Blair, Nola and their band at Visioncast, pick up a copy of their CD and listen to them year round.

You can purchase and pick up CD's by contacting Rick by email

rick.allencreek@verizon.net

## EGGstreme Fun for Families



EGGstreme fun for families and their friends was found at this year's **EGGstreme Game**, a Kreek Kids Easter outreach event held @ AC3 on Friday evening April 7th.

The EGGstreme game included fun, interactive and Fear Factor style challenges that audience members of all ages competed in. Throughout the game, the Biblical Easter story was revealed by Mary Magdalene, a famous Bible character, along with her on stage helpers; Mr. Bunny, Mrs. Bunny and Baby Bunny.



For EGGciting pictures and additional Kreek Kids News, hop on over to

[http://www.ac3.org/KKY\\_News/k\\_current.htm](http://www.ac3.org/KKY_News/k_current.htm)

## Welcome Aboard Three New Kreek Kids Leaders

"These leaders understand that children's ministry matters!"

We are excited to welcome aboard our newest Kreek Kids leaders:



**Jessieanna Campbell**

Nursery Director

360-939-2401

[cliffandjessieanna@hotmail.com](mailto:cliffandjessieanna@hotmail.com)



**Dean Dudgeon**

Preschool/Kindergarten Director

360-659-1106

[dcdud1@aol.com](mailto:dcdud1@aol.com)



**Becky Epperson**

Resource Coordinator

360-653-6621

[tenikobj@comcast.net](mailto:tenikobj@comcast.net)

These leaders understand that children's ministry matters! They know that families are vital to Allen Creek's future and are willing to give 'a little more' of their time, gifts & talents serving in a ministry that will impact the next generation.

Check out '**In the Spotlight**'

[www.ac3.org/kk\\_inside\\_track/spotlight.htm](http://www.ac3.org/kk_inside_track/spotlight.htm)

to find out some Fun Facts about these talented new leaders!

# Disciple School Online

**What is an "Online" study group?**

An online study group is where people come together in an Internet community to work through various study topics. Study groups provide participants with a forum for learning and reflecting together.

Disciple School Online (DSO) is a virtual place where members can interact with each other, sharing ideas and expressions about the walk with Christ.

Online blogs (web logs) and forums have become a unique phenomenon of community on the Internet in recent years and we plan on taking advantage of the format and technologies. DSO will have its own website where members can log in and interact with other members on a shared topic.

**Why online?**

Many of us at AC3 would like to get involved and interact more with our fellow AC3'rs but finding a spare weeknight each week can be a challenge. Building a small group online allows members to join in the conversation

at any time as it fits our individual schedules, and we don't need to change out of our pj's to do it! DSO will not be entirely virtual - we will plan "face to face" events every 6-8 weeks.

**What will the study topics be?**

Study topics and materials will be anything that points us to Jesus Christ. It may be fiction or non-fiction books, MP3 or CD messages, music and art, or perhaps even the writings of other "bloggers" on the web.

Any member will be able to suggest a topic or material for study and the group will decide the direction we take. We will be starting with the classic from C.S. Lewis - Mere Christianity.

**Who can join?**

Membership in the DSO study group is by invitation only - and You Are Invited! Membership will not be open to the entire Internet community - although anyone will be able to visit the website and view postings that have been published to the world.

Any member can invite others as well so if you have friends in other states or countries they are welcome to join in.

Contact [shea@discipleschool.org](mailto:shea@discipleschool.org) for more information

## Trust Challenge

This month's trust challenge is again inspired by C.S. Lewis.

**"These things are good images of what we really desire; but if they are mistaken for the thing itself they turn into dumb idols, breaking the hearts of their worshipers"**

Consider first for a moment those things that provide you the greatest pleasure. The activities and people you most look forward to spending time with.

Do you love a good movie? One where you can become part of the story, experiencing the drama or intrigue or adventure or heartache along with the characters? Perhaps, like me, music speaks to you and fills you with joy and emotion like no picture or word could? Chances are good that friends and family fill a large part in your enjoyment of life. The world was made a beautiful place and how much pleasure there is in going out and experiencing it - smelling the natural air, watching the many creatures simply live out their existence, or exploring the great expanses, trying to fathom the mountains, oceans or heavens.

This is all beauty... stories and art, time with loved ones, nature in the raw... this is all good and should each be considered one of the many gifts that the Giver lovingly places into your life. But we often end up leaning all our weight upon these, trusting them for our happiness instead of the One who gives them.

*"The books or the music in which we thought the beauty was located will betray us if we trust to them; it was not in them, it only came through them, and what came through them was longing. These things - the beauty, the memory of our own past - are good images of what we really desire; but if they are mistaken for the thing itself they turn into dumb idols, breaking the hearts of their worshipers. For they are not the thing itself; they are only the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of a tune we have not heard, news from a country we have never yet visited . . ."* ~C.S. Lewis

A common perception has been the idea that Christianity, and living the "Christian life", is all dry duty - that pleasure and desire is something wicked and should be called sin and avoided. The truth we find in the scriptures is that pleasure is like so many other things - good and beautiful in and of themselves but by misplacing our trust they can become a pit.

Humankind has always had a voracious hunger for happiness and pleasure. Sex drugs and rock & roll has long been the motto of many. It seems never enough, however, because so many get up from the table still hungry even after gorging themselves.

Another Lewis quote

*"When infinite joy is offered us, we are like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in the slums because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."* ~C.S. Lewis

God has given pleasure to you as an appetizer. It is not the main course however - He is.

### Challenge

- For the next month, keep a journal and record every moment of pleasure you experience.
- How does each experience whet your appetite for God?

## Applications

Northwesterners are different.

Read any news story that includes national statistics..."73% of Americans believe that Elvis is still alive..." or..."1 out of 7 Americans prefer chocolate covered ants to chocolate covered beetles..." And you can bet that if you looked at the responses from people in Western Washington...the numbers would be completely different than the "national average".

We just seem to go our own way around here. If you didn't move out West on your own adventure, you were raised by people who DID just that - or THEIR parents did. What that means is that we have a high concentration of individualists, and/or people who taught individualist values to their children and their children's children and so on.

Some might look into our culture and declare it un-friendly or cold. And they might be right. Others look at us and see innovative and adventurous people. They might be right as well.

The church looks into our NW culture and sees a mixed bag too. People who tend to resist intimate community, but who value truth. People who tend to reject tradition, but who are capable of embracing change.

Regardless of how we are judged as a culture, one thing is true - we can't "do" church like the rest of America does.

One way we're expressing that difference is with our Applications course. Instead of asking our independent minded Northwesterners to force themselves into a traditional classroom setting to learn more about living the Christian life, we set-up a course that can be customized for as few as TWO people: a Guide, and a Traveler.

Is this you? You're interested in learning more about living the life of a Christ Follower, but you find it difficult to imagine sitting in some sort of classroom, "learning" how to be in love with God, like a voc-tech student learns how to tune a carburetor.

Applications is for you then. An intimate, self-directed journey that you can take at your own pace, with a guide of YOUR choosing.

Perhaps you are a Christian, and you know the person I just described, but you feel unqualified to be a spiritual guide. You're afraid you won't have the answers, or worse... you'll give the WRONG answers!

Not to worry. This journey is not about acquiring a bunch of knowledge, it's about learning to live. And as an Application Guide, you'll have the crack, AC3 Staff standing right behind you to help, every step along the way.

Check it out in the Lobby next weekend. Look for the "Quest Center" pillar. Simply take a GUIDE BOOK and a TRAVELLER BOOK for each person who plans to go along, and get started! Everything you need is in the booklets!

Questions? Call or e-mail Dan Hazen at the church office:

**(360) 659-7335 - dan.allencreek@verizon.net**

"Regardless of how we are judged as a culture, one thing is true - we can't "do" church like the rest of America does."



# STAR GAZING

by example Hollywood shows you how NOT to live life

June 4 Childhood *dangerous exposure*

June 11 Youth *lack of direction*

June 18 Middle Age *relational chaos*

Sundays 10:30 am "Connection"  
refreshments & childcare provided

**ALLEN CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH**

7314 44th Ave. N.E., Marysville, WA 98270  
659-SEEK web site ac3.org

## Dreaming Big Dreams (cont.)

We're dreaming big dreams. **Imagine** a church building that services needs from seeker to fully devoted follower!

**Imagine** first, the alleviation of our current growth inhibitors, more lobby space, more parking, more seating, more education rooms, youth space! But dream bigger!

**Imagine** a building that becomes a community center!

**Imagine** a coffee house that could be meeting place, a hang out, a performance center for pre-evangelism events, and one on one relationship space – open all week.

**Imagine** a preschool that brings in unchurched young families to check out the gospel.

**Imagine** sports courts, a ball field, for use by the community, building relationships.

Here's the dream: What if we built a community center with such exposure, meeting such a broad range of needs that **every person in Marysville** touched it at least once every year! How? For a ball game, a service, a youth event, a concert, a free loaf of bread, a life-needs seminar, a cup of coffee! **Imagine!**

God has been in our past... but I believe he has already written his signature all over our future. Our job is to remain faithful to our calling to be a safe place where irreligious people can become fully devoted followers of Christ.

We are rabid about that mission, and we must keep our passion running hot even while we wait for space issues to work themselves out. To that end we've made some hiring moves this year that we believe will enhance worship, disciple making, and children's ministry in a way that will build our core like never before. *And a built up, mature, fully loved and connected core, will be bright light and salty salt in our community.*

*"What if we built a community center with such exposure, meeting such a broad range of needs that every person in Marysville touched it at least once every year! ."*

**Rick Thiessen**

## Leadership Lines

Picture this: Oprah Winfrey interviewing AC3's elder, Tod Corser. She wants to get inside his head, reveal what makes him tick, learn a little about his background, get some bio info on him... perhaps even make him cry. Here's how the interview would go:

**"The psalmist speaks of our charge: to sing to the Lord, to declare His glory among the nations and to declare His marvelous deeds among all people."**

**O: So, Tod, where were you born and raised?**

**T:** I was born in Oregon, spent my childhood in Arizona then back to Oregon for early high school. Moved to Washington my sophomore year of high school.

**O: Tell us about your family...**

**T:** My wife Lenni and I are raising 5 daughters. Lenni home schools three of the girls, which keeps her hoppin'. I coach my girls' softball teams which, I might add, is one of my favorite leisure time activities. Spending time with my girls is a huge priority for me. Even though I spend long hours working - I'm a small business owner - I consider my time with my girls a treasure and will do whatever I need to do to make that happen.

**O: Tod, tell us what other 'extra' activities you're involved in.**

**T:** Well, O, I love my church! I brought my family here 6.5 years ago and have been here ever since. My fellow AC3ers have become family for me. I count it a privilege to serve as an elder. In addition to other elder responsibilities, I serve as the AC3 building committee chairperson. I find I'm able to use my leadership gifts to coalesce a great group of committed members. We meet monthly to discuss and make decisions about the next steps for AC3's expansion.

**O: What keeps you going... so full of excitement and energy?**

**T:** I find my motivation for my life, and use as my rally verse for AC3's building committee, the words in Psalms 96:2-3. The psalmist speaks of our charge: to sing to the Lord, to declare His glory among the nations and to declare His marvelous deeds among all people. Serving as an elder, working closely with building committee members, seeing this congregation's response to the All In initiative - these are just a few of the ways I see again that He is God, worthy of our praise!

**O: It certainly seems you are committed to what you're doing at this time. What are your plans for the future?**

**T:** I plan to live one day at a time, trying to be the best lover of God, the best husband, the best father, the best business owner and the best servant to my community I can be and in all things, bring Glory to God.

**Some additional Leadership Lines highlights:**

Here comes summer! Let's highlight a couple of upcoming AC3 events your elders ask you consider attending....hope to see you there!

Anyone who leads anything around AC3 is warmly invited to attend **AC3's 2006 Visioncast**, our annual leaders' retreat. This year's retreat will be held August 25-27. This retreat is held at a retreat center on Whidbey Island. Worship! Learn! Eat! Play! Rest! Lots more information will be forthcoming, but please mark your calendar now. You will not want to be left out!

Willowcreek Church (a big church in the Midwest) hosts an **annual Leadership Summit**. This year's Summit will be held in Bellingham and, as in years gone by, AC3 plans to send a group. Dates: August 10-12. If you are interested in more information, please contact the church office.

**Signed: elders Tod Corser, Deb Jarnagin, Gary Tallmadge, Rick Thiessen**

## Sole Sisters



If you think physical exercise is fun (at least most of the time) then you just may be a Sole Sister! Why not join us on a Sunday afternoon bike ride, a weekly jogging session, a rollerblade outing and even an occasional swim? Grab a friend or two and join us as we engage in a variety of fitness activities and levels throughout the month.

Contact Becky @ [tenikobj@comcast.net](mailto:tenikobj@comcast.net) or call 360-653-6621 to join the sports ministry's newest quest to become physically, spiritually and emotionally fit.

# ole sister

**CONTAGIOUS**  
**CHRISTIAN**

This seminar is practical for followers of Christ whose faith in him has changed their lives and they'd like to share that, but they don't know how to start. Most Christians would rather not talk about faith than do so in a way that's heavy handed, guilt inducing or embarrassing.

Thankfully, it doesn't have to be that way! Contagious Christian gives **practical insight** on how to **communicate** what God has done in our lives in a way that's **natural** and **non-threatening**.

It will help clarify the message, it will help clarify the importance of sharing faith, and it will show you the way you were uniquely wired to "just do it."

Saturday, June 24h 8:30am to 4:00pm

## Kreek Kids Karnival Strawberry Festival Outreach Event

**Saturday, June 17th 3:00 -7:30 PM @AC3**

This will be a 'fun and friendly' opportunity for AC3 families to get involved in outreach and to invite their friends- "To Check out Church". We'll have activities like face painting, pennies in straw, Bouncy House and free food!

We need your family... Sign up with your kids, small group or a few friends to feature a carnival booth in the AC3 parking lot.

Need a booth or game idea? Cake Walk, Hula Hoop Toss, Guess Your Weight, Bowling, Clothes Pin Drop, Fishing Pond...See our website [http://www.ac3.org/kk\\_inside\\_track/spotlight.htm](http://www.ac3.org/kk_inside_track/spotlight.htm) For ideas, material & how to instructions. JOIN THE FUN! Contact Jenny @ 425-397-6653 or by email [jenny\\_arlt@comcast.net](mailto:jenny_arlt@comcast.net)

### Fit 2B Tied

New Small Group - **Fit 2B Tied**

Fit 2B Tied is open to couples who want their marriage to last a lifetime. F2BT sponsors fun 'date night' activities balanced with gatherings which take a deeper look into how to maintain--or start--a healthy and loving relationship as husband and wife.

Currently meeting on selected Friday evenings in the Marysville or Lake Stevens area. Contact Tracy or Twila @ 425-334-8043 or [tnt@kendra.com](mailto:tnt@kendra.com) to be put on the F2BT email list.



## Current Input :\

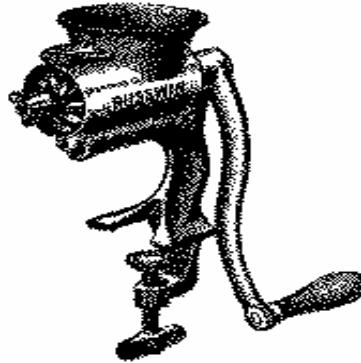
Current Input is the place where you can find out what your AC3 leaders are into recently.

The questions asked:

**"What are you reading lately?"**

**"Seen any good shows?"**

**"What are you listening to recently?"**



This editions response is from  
Tod Corser.

### **WHAT AM I CURRENTLY READING?**

Waking The Dead by John Eldredge

Primal Leadership by Daniel Goleman

With Bible reading I am more of a topic studier then a book reader I have been spending the last month and a half studying Worship and it's different forms with myself and that is what we have been talking about in the Sunday morning youth group.

### **WHAT HAVE I BEEN WATCHING?**

I primarily watch TV for Sports (I'm sick), however I do enjoy movies. Either suspense or something that makes me laugh. I have recently seen Red Eye and Flight Plan and my favorite TV shows are The Office or any of the CSI's.

### **WHAT AM I LISTENING TO?**

Any type of contemporary Worship music my favorite artists are Jeremy Camp, Third Day and Casting Crowns. I'm also a KJR sports radio Junky.

## Allen Creek Scene Investigator

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter from Allen Creek Community Church.

360-659-SEEK

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

7314 44th Ave. NE

Marysville, WA 98270

Copyright 2002 © Allen Creek Community Church