

# AC3 INVESTIGATOR

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

## Easter Dessert Theater Services

This year, we'll be inviting our friends and family to one of four different dessert theaters on **March 21st, 22nd and 23rd**. Each performance will be done in musical format and is an inspiring version of a popular Biblical parable, the Prodigal Son.

Friday and Saturday presentations are ticketed performances. Although the tickets are free, you will need to reserve tickets to insure comfortable table seating arrangements.



Sunday's services will be open seating (no tickets required) as chairs will be set up for maximum seating.



Our Foundation Class is set to begin **Thursday March 20th at 7:00 pm**

This 10 - week group picks up right where INVESTIGATION left off, by exploring exactly what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ, and the A-to-Z basics of the Christian faith. Topics like prayer, the Bible, the nature of God and being part of a church are covered.

Most FOUNDATION groups are made up of "Graduates" of a previous INVESTIGATION group; but people wanting a practical refresher course in the "Christian essentials" are welcome to join in as well. A sign up sheet is available at the Info Center.

Questions? Contact the church office or Mark Holland @ [doc.holland@verizon.net](mailto:doc.holland@verizon.net)



The next All In update meetings are currently being planned for the weekend of **April 12/13th** immediately following second services.

If you would like to know more about the All In adventure, you can find more information @ [www.ac3.org/allin.htm](http://www.ac3.org/allin.htm).

### Inside this issue:

Men's Retreat was Amazing!	<b>2</b>
A FIT-Tastic Event	<b>2</b>
A Technology Note	<b>2</b>
WDYL Update	<b>3</b>
SERVE Marysville	<b>3</b>
NSC Surveys Now Being Distributed	<b>4</b>
Geezer's Corner	<b>5</b>
NextGen Ministries	<b>6</b>
AC3 Answer Man	<b>6</b>

## Easter Theatre Service Times:

- **March 21st, Friday @ 7 PM**  
**Dessert—Ticketed Seating**  
**(NO childcare, NO FX Room)**
- **March 22nd, Saturday @ 7 PM**  
**Dessert—Ticketed Seating**  
**(0-5th grades - Limited childcare and children's programs since there is limited table seating)**
- **March 23rd, Sunday @ 9 AM & 10:30 AM**  
**Open Seating Both Services**  
**Both services (Nursery—5 Years programs)**  
**FX Family Room OPEN**

Watch for more information in our lobby or go online to [www.ac3.org](http://www.ac3.org) for AC3 Easter details, event updates and how to reserve dessert table tickets for you and your friends.

## February Men's Retreat was Amazing!

WOW!!!! What an incredible weekend. This weekend impacted my life. I have rediscovered the man God designed me to be. These are a few comments, some of the men shared returning from the '08 Men's Retreat.

Five churches were represented at the retreat this year, but the majority were certainly AC3 and Turning Point. This is a reflection of the ongoing unity occurring in Marysville and Snohomish County. A unity that has been blessed at Summer Jubilee, the Men's Forum and as mentioned the Men's Retreat.

Three days, two nights of iron sharpening iron. Guest speaker, Alick Lee-Warner shared how purpose and identity are different, but also the same, like two sides to the same coin. He shared how we grew up accepting societal identity, but our true calling is to live up to God's identity of us. The weekend was packed full of activities, conversations, reconciliation and cleansing.

(Continued on page 5)



## FIT-Tastic Egg Hunt ~ Saturday March 15th 12-1:30 PM

This year, AC3 is partnering with the Third Street Merchants to help create a community Easter event.

The FIT-Tastic Egg Hunt, "Fitness & fun, rolled into one!" will be held on **Saturday, March 15th, 12-1:30 PM** at the Carabinieri Bar and Outer Court area.

To insure this is a great community wide event, extra helpers are needed.

Helper Openings: Supervisors needed to monitor the Bouncy House, and the FIT-Tastic Obstacle Course Egg Hunt. Supporting help with set up/take down is also needed.

If you would like to help, contact Chrissie Clementson @ 360.658.8691 or Twila @ 360.659.7335.

You can also send an email to [youth@ac3.org](mailto:youth@ac3.org) or sign up in the church lobby. Printable invitations and extra info will be posted @ [http://www.ac3.org/kk\\_inside\\_track/spotlight.htm](http://www.ac3.org/kk_inside_track/spotlight.htm)



## On a Technical Note



Have you noticed that Rick no longer has a PC in his office when he isn't there? Or that Twila's monitor doubled in size? These are just a few obvious changes we have made to the AC3 technology infrastructure.

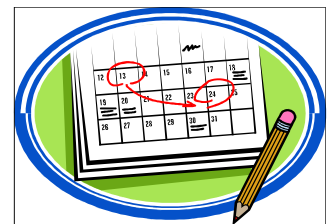
It was becoming quite apparent we needed to upgrade and get all of our computers on the same operating system and software packages. Thanks to a program Microsoft has for non-profits, we were able to purchase our software at a greatly reduced price so we were then able to free up some funds to purchase new hardware, like

Rick's new laptop, Twila's new PC with a 19" monitor, Dan also has a new PC, and we have a PC now dedicated to graphic creation which will be used by the Communications team.

Another major change is we purchased a Mac for the production booth, we may never see the 'blue screen of death' again on our auditorium screens!

One benefit you all may like is with Outlook 2007, we are able to publish the church calendar for free through the Microsoft Office Online website.

If you would like to check out the AC3 Church Calendar it can be found at [https://calendars.office.microsoft.com/en-us/pubcal/viewer.aspx?path=/pubcalstorage/dpy86fz349445/AC3\\_Church\\_Calendar.ics&tz=480](https://calendars.office.microsoft.com/en-us/pubcal/viewer.aspx?path=/pubcalstorage/dpy86fz349445/AC3_Church_Calendar.ics&tz=480) or use the link on the AC3 website menu tab 'When & Where' select 'Calendar'.



New Online Church Calendar

If you are an Outlook user, you can even subscribe to the calendar and every time you open outlook the church calendar will be there for you. It updates automatically, which has made me a very happy administrator!

Julie - AC3 Office Administrator

## WDYL Community Services off to a Great Start

This year, all of AC3 is going through an in-depth discipleship course that is training us to expand our love for God and for Christ's church and for those far from God. The reason for an expansive series like this is threefold: One, to give AC3 the tools and motivation to move into a kind of maturity where we are all responsible for our own spiritual growth. Two, to align our church tightly around our basics, our guiding north stars as believers and as a church – so we are unified and feel more together than ever. Three, to prepare AC3 to enter into a 5 year plan that will envision and live out God's designs for our church in the coming years.

To clarify some questions you might have about that 5 year plan: Our five year plan is not going to be about a rearrangement of our key beliefs or values as church. Those are set by the apostles teaching which gives us (and every church that wants to remain true to Christ) it's marching orders. Also, our 5 year plan is not a move to become more "corporate" or businesslike. It is our vision to become more efficient and better managers of what God has given us. Jesus was not pleased with the manager in his parable who buries his talent, thinking it best just to "play it by ear" and "see what happens". No, he expected active investment, and return, which surely required planning, foresight, initiative, and goals.

We turn to the early apostles and find Paul making plans, like his plan to travel to Spain, which surely required immense planning, foresight and prayer about what exactly God wanted him to be doing with his opportunities, gifts, time and resources.

This is what having a 5 year plan at AC3 is about. It's about making the most of what God has given us. He's given us time and talents and treasures. How ought we to invest those best? He's given a vast depth of resources in YOU the body of this church. How would this body be best employed? Where ought it to go? What work ought it to be doing, so that it does what God wants... and does not function haphazardly, or obedient only to the tyranny of the urgent. Imagine if, in 55 AD, Paul was so obsessed with running weekly worship services in Corinth that he never asked the question: is the best use of my time here doing this, or should I also travel to new towns? Should I perhaps also write letters to encourage other churches? Imagine if this one Christian never planned ahead or figured out the difference between what was his BEST contribution to Christ's purposes and what was merely GOOD?

So we are going about the process of praying and thinking and discussing what BEST looks like for AC3. It will include goals for new staffing, for new ministries, for new space (as ALL IN continues). It will include refinement of old ministries and strategies (because we all agree our mission is inviolable, our methods are not). No doubt many of the clues lie in the territory we've already been. Many of the clues lie in who we are, what we look like, what we are passionate about, what resources lie at our disposal. Many of the clues lie in the broken world around us, the needs that define our culture and the open doors presented by them for expanding Christ's work. What will come, I hope, is an Esther moment: the sense that AC3 has been placed right here, right now, with all of our history, and all our potential for "just such a time as this".

This all begins with a season of intense (and interesting!) evaluation. We're in the middle of it right now. We've put together a knowledge team to gather knowledge about us and our community; A unity team to keep us together as we anticipate change; A direction team to help sort through all this data and make recommendations to the elders about future goals for AC3.

All of you will also be asked to be involved in some way. Some by being on these teams. All of us will be taking an extensive survey about AC3 to assess, needs, passions, blind spots, strengths. And all of us ought to be praying for God's mind for AC3 as we embark into this amazing future together. Because... "unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain." Ps 127:1.

Pastor Rick



WDYL Online Forum [www.ac3hoodoo.com](http://www.ac3hoodoo.com)

## Serve Marysville

SERVE Marysville is a church cooperative event. Several pastors expressed that it would be a positive declaration of our love in Christ for the community through intentional acts of kindness and service. In partnering with the school district and the parks & recreation department, as churches we have the opportunity to give part of our Saturday to beautify Hwy 528 & Allen Creek Elementary. Planting new trees in place of the diseased trees removed, beauty bark and landscaping Allen Creek elementary is the primary project we have chosen to be a part of. Should we get an incredible response from the church community, we have identified other elementary schools for landscaping improvements based on volunteers.

### Upcoming Church Partnering Events:

April 19 SERVE Marysville Day

May 1 National Day of Prayer, 12 noon, Comeford Park Pavilion

August 10th Summer Jubilee



You can eXperience this year's Easter musical on the BIG screen upstairs!

**Family Room eXtras:**

- ◆ eXtra wiggle room for families with young kids
- ◆ Snacks and quiet activities
- ◆ Great viewing for the whole family!



AC3's first annual women's retreat was held at The Firs Christian Conference Center in Bellingham on March 7, 8 & 9th.

The retreat's theme was Empowered by Grace, Permission to Live.

In the next AC3 newsletter, we'll be highlighting some of the retreat happenings so stay tuned...

Contact Janet Randall @ 360.658.3369 or by email [fainandjanet@gmail.com](mailto:fainandjanet@gmail.com) to get on next year's pre-registration list!

## North Snohomish County Survey Now Being Distributed

As many of you know, AC3 has begun an extensive survey of the North Snohomish County community in an effort to collect data for our 5 year strategic plan.

As a leadership team we want to know our community. We want to understand the specific needs, concerns, hopes and dreams of the people God has called us to serve...

However, our community is RAPIDLY changing:

- in size (by June, Marysville will be larger in population than Walla Walla)
- in composition (Snohomish County is getting OLDER and more ethnically diverse)
- in culture (When AC3 was founded (1995) we were a mostly residential/rural community...we're now home to the largest casino in the state, multiple national retail chains and a multi-story hotel!)

Understanding this change is why this survey is so important. Can you help?

We need volunteers to distribute survey invitations (1/3 sheets of paper that will invite individuals to take a short online survey @ <http://www.nscsurvey1.com/>) to local stores, places of business and other appropri-

ate public locations, and secure permission to set them out. You can also consider sending the online link to your NON-ATTENDING AC3 friends who live in Snohomish County. We need to have most surveys completed by March 15th!

We're asking you to take a small stack of invitations into: gas stations, company break rooms, dry cleaners, convenience stores where you shop, your favorite coffee stand, your vet's office, dentists, chiropractors, massage therapists, tanning salons or hair salons, clubs or your favorite restaurant and ask permission of the management to leave the invitations in plain view of customers/visitors. That's it.

We'd like to see invitations placed ALL OVER the North county region: Arlington, Stanwood, Lake Stevens, Lakewood, Marysville, Everett, Snohomish, Machias, Darrington, Tulalip, Monroe...

If you can help, please contact Dan [danh@ac3.org](mailto:danh@ac3.org) and he'll make arrangements to get you the surveys and an "Answer Sheet" to help you explain the survey to others.

**Note! This survey is strictly for NON AC3 ATTENDEES! A survey for AC3r's will coming your way soon!** Thanks for prayerfully considering being a part of establishing AC3's direction for the NEXT 5 years!

## April and May Connection Topics

It's fun to think about being in the spotlight, of being famous, of having everyone know your name, and everyone think you're great. Yet is there a dark side to all of this?

During April Connection services, we'll use the popular reality TV show 'American Idol' to help us discover where true self esteem comes from. When you know the Source, we can break free from the tyranny of self promotion, self centeredness and self preservation.

If you like to sing, why not audition to perform LIVE on the AC3 stage



3/29&30, 4/5&6 and 4/12&13th?

You can sign up at the Information Center starting the weekend of March 8/9. You need to be 16 years or older to tryout and perform.

Not quite 16? You can choose to sign up and perform on the upstairs stage during our AC3 Idol series. Kreek Kids will have the chance to sing, dance, and perform their talents in front of their peers and parents.

Kreek Kids performers need to sign up in the Kreek Kids Check-In Center. We'll be looking for you...on stage!

**AC3 Idol & In the Soup ~ April Series 7:00 PM Saturdays & 10:30 AM Sundays**



*(February Men's Retreat Was Amazing! Continued from page 2)*

It was more than men just nodding their heads towards each other and saying, "Dude".

There was real relationship building and men being vulnerable. Yes, you read correctly, men being vulnerable.

Throughout the weekend, I had the privilege to witness men pastoring each other. Men walking shoulder-to-shoulder with each other. Men encouraging and serving each other. As one of the guys stated, "This weekend should be common instead of the exception." He is absolutely correct.

For the first time, teenagers attended. Young men building solid foundations to be the men, future husbands and the fathers God made them to be. Many of us old farts, thought, "What if we had this opportunity in our youth? What difference would that have made in our lives?" We were all very excited to see them step up and experience a weekend with their creator.

Another new addition was the 20 Somethings. The 20 plus year old men made a huge impact and created a very positive environment for all.

They brought a sense of a balance to the retreat. A balance that was not noticed missing until they arrived. Their input, their perceptions, their presence was extremely valuable (Beyond words).

God willing, the experiences of the weekend will not be isolated, but carried over throughout the year. God willing, the 56 men that attended will multiply their gifts, talents and passions to loving God, loving the church and loving the lost. If not my posse will take out their knees.

(Just Kidding)

I would encourage everybody to ask a gentleman, that attended the retreat, to share his experience, his story. If you do, I'm confident you will be as uplifted as I am.

God Bless, James Brooke  
Small Group & Forum  
Coordinator

## Geezer's Corner

**You Know What I Mean?** I have never heard Pastor Rick or Dan use the phrase, "You know what I mean?" from the pulpit. These two guys are both so thoughtful and careful in preparation and presentation of their messages that they say what they mean and mean what they say. Make no mistake, I do not like the phrase: "You know what I mean?" To me it represents a lazy mental approach to communicating which places the full burden of understanding on the listener. It should be banned and punished by the communication police. My solution to dealing with those with the proclivity to use this phrase repeatedly is to determine if there is a question mark at the end and if there is, then my and everyone's response should be "No". If there is no question mark, then everyone's response should be, "No" Frankly, you should tell me what you mean. After all I've already told you approximately how old I am, and my three college Fs were from repeated attempts at passing a course in Mind Reading.

My guess is that Rick and Dan are following the perfect example of Jesus in communication. Could you imagine Jesus saying to us?: "I tell you the truth, You know what I mean?" "You don't? Well, whatever."

There are many companion phrases in common use which seem to have the capability to raise my ire for differing reasons. For example: "In my personal opinion" (I thought your significant other was responsible for that); "That's what I'm talking about" and "That's what she (he) said" (How come you didn't say it first?); "I feel you there". . . . (Where?); "Back in the day" (When? Frequently used by people citing a historical phrase or event who were not alive in the time referenced); "Eh?" (Canadian version of the American phrases "You know what I mean?" or "Huh" also commonly used by Canadian natives with varying levels of hearing loss); "Whatever" (I would strongly prefer to deeply inhale the fragrance of limburger cheese which has been thoroughly mixed with the freshest clumps from the kitty litter box than to hear your opinion on anything!..... Ever!!!). "OMG" and "For the love of God" are (new and old methods of using the Lord's name in vain.)

If I stepped on your toes by citing one of your favorite phrases then let me say in all humility and sincerity: "Whatever!" "That's how I roll." "Oh shut up, You know what I mean."

BTW, for those of you who noticed, yes...I forgot to include the moral to my story of the parrot and the turkey in my last article (Holiday Edition 2007). Now don't smirk! Someday, you too will be 65 and a half, or is it 66 and a half?!) The moral was this... "Those who falsely claim credit for the positive changes in others are likely to be called turkeys."

Love, Geezer (Larry) Fish



# NE XtGEN

Connecting the Next Generation to Christ



## AC3 Answer Man

In an effort to increase the effectiveness of our children and youth programs and to help clarify who oversees which ministries, we will start using the term NextGen Ministry when we consider our 0-18 year olds attending AC3.

NextGen Ministry encompasses and combines both Kreek Kids (0-5th grades) and Restored Youth Ministries or RYM (6th-12th grades) under one umbrella.

### Who's Who in NextGen:

- NextGen Director- (0-18 YRS) Twila Crain 360-659-7335 youth@ac3.org
- Sunday Kreek Kids Director- (0-5th) Twila Crain 360-659-7335 youth@ac3.org
- Saturday Adventure Club (0-5th) Trina Perry 425-737-4061 trina@ac3.org
- RYM Director- (6th-12th grades) Jenn Bartlett 425-346-0207 jenn@ac3.org



### Hooked on the BEST HOUR

Kreek Kids spring training was held on March 2nd this year and it's 'fishy' theme proved to be a fun way to help everyone 'Catch the Vision' for THE BEST HOUR!

Find out more about Kreek Kids and spring training in the newest edition of The Kid Connection.

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

*Q: AC3 used to put out signs showing us where we could park during services. Where I can park when our parking lot is full?*

*A: Good question! Parking in places we're not allowed to use would be a bad witness to our neighbors. ☺*

*During all service times, you can park in any of the spots directly north of AC3 by the dance studio or Peterson Construction. To the south, the spots by Arrow can also be used during all service times. On Sunday mornings only, the first 16 spots next to the street are available at the Skate Inn across the street. And of course, parking along 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue is always available.*

*We appreciate and encourage regular AC3 attenders to leave some of our parking lot spaces open each week so guests and visitors can feel welcome.*

*As usual we hope you'll be mindful of any trash or debris that we may leave on other people's parking lots. We want to make a good impression by cleaning up after ourselves and leaving no impact for those owners generous enough to let us use their parking lots.*



### Restored Youth Ministry RYM ~ 6th-12 Grades Sundays @ AC3 6:07 pm [www.ac3.org/youth.htm](http://www.ac3.org/youth.htm)

Over here at the RYM think tank (AKA Jenn's Brain... Scary, huh?), We are working on some really cool things. Here is a list:

1. RYM very own website. It is looking good! It will have the blog, calender, videos, and photos!
2. Friends Bowl Free! March 9th @ 6pm. Bring a Friend and they bowl free. Students only pay \$8.00. meet at the church!
3. Wear Green; Win a Prize! In honor of St Patty's Day, we are having a competition for the student that can wear the

most creative green outfit on March 16th!

4. Guitar Hero Comp. We will be rockin out on April 6th to kick-off our April Series "I wish I was a..." where we will be talking about what we put in front of our relationship with God, such as video games, our looks, \$\$, or boy/girlfriends.

5. Last thing, we are starting to look ahead to summer (I can't wait for sunny and warm!). Here is a teaser of what might be on the schedule: Africa (not to late to sign up!), Ropes Course, Hikes, BBQ, service projects, wild waves and more! If you want to get involved, please give me a call!

Jenn  
RYM Director  
425-346-0207