

ACC Connections

Anacortes
Christian
Church

Volunteers Needed for Children's Program

We need "floaters" and assistants in Children's Church. If you aren't already doing so would you please consider taking one Sunday out of each month to help us create an awesome environment for our children to learn about Jesus? We are growing and we need more volunteers old and young, men and women. Contact Mark & Laurel Bryant or the church office to learn how you can apply to join this valuable ministry.

New Need

We have several boxes of slides in the attic that encompass ACC's church history.

Is there anyone out there with the knowledge and expertise to convert them to dvd? Contact Donna Ruddell @ 360-293-5707.

Coffee-Java-Joe

Only 5 more months to get covered with those who can make the morning coffee on Sundays. You sign up for just one month. Be sure to stop by the sign-up sheet at the cart in the foyer, if you can help. Thank you. - Daniela



Faith Promise is Coming Soon! - March 3-5

One of the reasons God multiplies blessings to ACC is our commitment to reach out to needs beyond ourselves. We give significant support to eight missionaries at present. Actually, we give as God gives to us faithfully beyond our own needs!

One key to our generous giving is something we call "ACC Faith Promise." Faith Promise is an annual weekend event where we ask God to speak to each ACC member about His heart for needs around the world. We are each challenged to see things through God eyes and partner with

Him to meet a portion of those needs. We stretch our faith and set personal giving to missions goals as God's Spirit prompts and directs us.

Last year, we as individual families set goals beyond any we had set before.

To meet those goals, some thought that our regular giving would go down. Not so! Our Faith Promise goal was met and our general fund giving increased as well!

Our theme for the coming year is something God has proven to us over a 45 year

span: "I Am With You Always!" Matthew 28:20. Dates for this coming year's Faith Promise Rally are March 3-5. Our guest speaker is Marsha Miles who works with Pioneer Bible Translators. The ACC Missions Team is busy making plans for the upcoming event. We have a lot to celebrate.

Would you begin praying for this anticipated weekend? Ask God to show us how to celebrate His heart. Pray for the ACC Missions Team and missionaries we support.

- John Douglas

In the Community

DINE OUT to end Homelessness this Thursday, February 9th, 2017. See the poster at the foyer bulletin board for a list of all the different establishments involved. There's quite a lot to choose from! Bon appetite! Call Jessie at AFC for more details (293-2993 ext. 114) or email Jessica@AnacortesFamily.org



Prosper???

When the author says, "In all that he does, he prospers," (Psalm 1:3) I always picture God smoothing the bumps in the road and giving me a pain free life of ease and success. I don't think I've ever actually expected it but that is what it sounds like he is saying. At least, life should be easier if you follow God's ways, right?

Recently, I've started to question if my definition of "prosper" lines up with Gods. Based on stories of Christians living in persecution and also based on the results (or lack there of) I see in my own life, I'm thinking that my definition of "prosper" may not yield the fruit God wants for me. A pain free life of ease and success doesn't usually yield the character and perseverance it takes to be good at any-

thing—not health, not relationship and especially not life.

Henry Drummond in his book "The Greatest Thing in the World," challenges us with a new idea about the pain free life of ease that we often want. He challenges us to stop resenting all of the roadblocks, temptations, difficult people and painful circumstances of this life and instead to see them as "...the practice, which God appoints you; and it is having its work in making you patient, and humble, and generous, and unselfish and kind, and courteous. Do not grudge the hand that is molding the still too shapeless image within you. It is growing more beautiful though you see it not, and every touch of temptation

may add to its perfection." (Pg. 26-27)

I used to get upset when, after enjoying a really great bible time or a "mountaintop experience" with God, I would then seem to face stronger temptations or challenges or difficulties than ever. "Maybe all of my effort wasn't worth it," I would think to myself. But could those temptations, challenges, and roadblocks actually be a sign of His guiding hand in my life and something to be embraced rather than dreaded? That's much easier to say than to do, but maybe God does have a very different definition for "prosper" than I do.

Praying for your "prosperity" this year, - Mark

SAVE the DATE: Amplify Camp will be July 11-14

Last year God gave ACC a vision for reaching out to the youth in our community in a way we had never attempted before. We stepped out in trust, and launched AMPLIFY, our first middle school camp. The experience reminded me what a blessing it is to be able to serve at Anacortes Christian Church. The amount of volunteers (including some from other churches) who caught the vision and contributed their time, talents, and/or finances was overwhelming. 27 campers attended, and around 13 made decisions for Christ. Most importantly, we had the opportunity to speak directly into the lives of middle schoolers about God's love for them, and who they are in Christ.

This message is more urgent now than ever... I'm sure every generation says that, but no generation has ever faced what this generation

faces. Think about it for a moment: Do you remember middle school drama? Do you remember when you were just beginning to discover who you were, a time when the opinions of others seemed to matter much more than they should have, and everyone seemed to be competing for popularity?

Today, through Facebook and social media, our kids literally have a scale that rates how valuable they are in the eyes of their world. How many "likes" did that picture get, compared to a friend's? Who "unfriended" who? Or how does it feel to click through the recent post of pictures from the party or event that you weren't invited to? The amount of social pressure these students face is monstrous. And therein lies the Church's opportunity to speak truth amidst a sea of lies. This is a vital mission field, right

here in our community.

As I met with Jay and Linda Lewis last week to begin discussing this year's camp, I didn't know what to expect. Would the fire still be there? Would there be another camp? As Linda began pouring over notes from last year's camp, I could hardly keep up. The excitement was palpable. We formulated a plan for moving forward with Amplify 2017.

We took cues from last year's evaluations as to what we can improve upon for this year, we made lists of people to contact, and a tentative schedule of events. I walked away with a renewed excitement for this Summer, and I hope and pray that God will lead more people to catch the vision. Here are some things to be thinking about in these initial planning stages:



Prayer. Please be praying that we would discern God's will in all things for this camp. Please also begin praying for the students who will attend, and for the volunteers that God will raise up.

Planning. The camp will be hosted July 11th – 14th, at Quaker Cove here on Fidalgo Island. If you can volunteer in any way, there will be all sorts of opportunities available, not only during camp, but in preparation as well. We don't want you to miss out. We will also be scheduling a work day at Quaker Cove this Spring, and fundraiser opportunities.

Questions? Contact Jay and Linda Lewis. Otherwise, save the dates, begin praying, and anticipate what God will do. - **God bless, Mike**

Youth News



The Youth Group would like to thank Jessica Cawthon

for providing an excellent dinner this last month. The feedback from the kids and adults was they all loved it! The chicken chili was a big hit!!

Our plan/hope is for more families/small groups to support the Youth Group and to provide dinner once a month for the kids. I know that the future of ACC is the Youth

and we need to make sure that they are on solid ground when it comes to spiritual fitness, and this is a good start.

Thank you, Men of Faith small group who will be hosting the youth group dinner on Feb 27th. Dinner will start at 6pm, with youth group ending at 7:30pm.

Also, be watching for the next youth Movie night. Date and time to be announced soon!

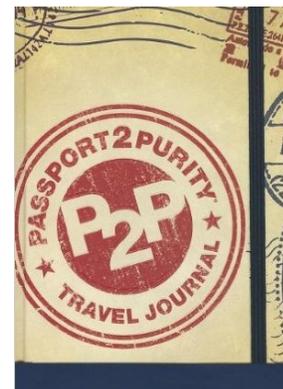
- **John Gordon**

Passport To Purity

Parents do you have a 10-12 year old child? If so, please consider taking them for a Passport2Purity weekend away.

This is not a convention or a retreat. Instead this is a once in a lifetime opportunity for a dad and his son or a mom and her daughter to go somewhere special together (camping, hotel, beach, mountains, etc) and be guided via a book and a cd through a life changing conversation between the two of

you. Talk to **Mark Bryant** to find out more information.



ACC Mailbox

"I want to express my deepest gratitude for your generosity in helping me with my rent.

May the Heavenly Father richly bless you and yours.

Gratefully, Susan Painter."

Facilities

Guess what? The upstairs bathrooms are getting geared up for their remodel. Items are getting purchased... always exciting. Proper planning is going...and we are on track for completion before Easter.

- **Thanks, Kathy**

Employment

Pregnancy Choices is hiring a part time paid nurse manager (BSN) to supervise and coordinate the operations of the medical program. For more information and a full job description, please call Pregnancy Choices and speak with Mary Bron, Executive Director
www.PregnancyChoices.org
360-428-4777

Preschool Registration

Our Preschool is now open to ACC church families for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. Classes are as follows: 3 year old TTH or MW 9-11:30/ 4year old MWF 9-1:00 or M-F 9-1:00. Age cut off for classes is August 31st and 3 year olds must be potty trained. If interested contact Lori, Michelle or Amanda at the preschool during school hours.

A Servant's Heart

There are people who serve in quiet, non-public ways. They prefer no public thanks or accolades. They rest in knowing that they are seen by the Lord...which is all they desire or need. We at ACC respect that, and don't want to disrupt their peace. But there are times when we as the Body of Christ need to publically share our appreciation for all they have done. We have a servant, such as these to thank.

Teresa Schwabe, has been serving here for over 35 years. Back in the early '80's, she helped start a weekly Mother's group bible study that met for many years. Then later, her service turned to helping in the Nursery and God's Tods area, where she has been serving for almost 20 years. Teresa, your ACC family just wants to publically recognize your amazing legacy of care and service. So many have been helped and blessed by your life. And as you pass the baton of service on to one of your grand-daughters (Gracie), who now helps in the Nursery/God's Tods area, we wish you God's best, and we praise Him for your life.



FEBRUARY DATES

- 2/7 Elder's meeting
- 2/9 Dine Out to End Homelessness
- 2.12 ACC Hosts "Dinner @ the Brick"
- 2/14 St. Valentine's Day
- 2/19 Deacon's meeting (Room 205)
- 2/20 President's Day (office closed)
- 2/21 Deaconess meeting (Fireside)

Coming in March...FAITH PROMISE, 3/3-5

Plan your Family Lines Adventure for this Summer....Book NOW

What would it be like to get away from it all for 7 days? No cell service. No way back. Isolated and purpose filled. Raw and rewarding. What would it be like to make that kind of investment in your son or daughter?

Are you scheduling your time off for this year? What if this summer's vacation was more than time away from routine? What if at the end of the week you left refreshed, challenged, invigorated and with

unforgettable memories with your child/children?

Or do you know someone who could really use this kind of time with their child? Please pass this along or invite them via our Facebook Events. We offer five Signature Adventures--you know the kind of bucket list trips that happen once in a lifetime!

- Aaron Bryant

Five Signature Adventures

- 1) Rod Building Retreat - June 19-24 - \$1150 pair
- 2) Father/Daughter Owyhee Kayaking/Fishing Expedition - July 15-22, \$1600pair
- 3) Father/Son Owyhee Kayaking/Fishing Expedition - Aug 12-19 \$1600pair
- 4) Grande Ronde River Steelheading Expedition #ONE - Oct. 21-26 - \$1600pair
- 5) Grande Ronde River Steelheading Expedition #TWO - Nov. 5-9 - \$1600pair

Space is limited - make the investment in you and your son/daughter today. www.familylines.org - Questions? See Aaron Bryant (360-770-5021 or abryant@familylines.org)

"Dinner @ the Brick" Outreach Explained - More Helpers Needed

ACC hosts Sunday "Dinner @ the Brick" meals @ 4:30pm on these following dates: Feb. 12, April 2, Oct. 8 and Dec. 3. There actually are lots of blank spots on the Brick 2017 schedule. It would be great if another group would rise up from ACC and get on the rotation. Many hands make for light work! Read on and see if this might be of interest to you.

"Dinner at the Brick" is a meal served every Sunday at the Westminster Presbyterian Church on 9th & M Ave. here in Anacortes. Dinner is open to the community, focusing on the poor, homeless and lonely. Dinner is always at the same time and in the same

facility, thus making it easier for people to attend.

Each week the dinner is cooked and hosted by one of the participating churches/organizations that take an active part. We are all dedicated to making our guests feel welcome and valued, treating them with respect and kindness.

The number of guest can vary but we are encouraged to cook for 60. Many will eat several plates of food then enjoy dessert while lingering over coffee and fellowshiping with each other and the dinner crew. It is a family feeling as many are regular attenders each week.

The hosting group will buy, decorate/set tables, prepare food, serve and clean up on their scheduled day. Foods need to be prepared on site according to health code restrictions and left overs are packaged and sent home with the guests who request them.

Dinner starts at 4:30 pm, and take home containers are prepared at 5:00 pm. Each team consists of a 4 to 5 people but we could use more. We are encouraged to have extra people who will dine with our guests (to visit) in addition to those in the kitchen cooking and serving.

This involvement in our city is a valued outreach. We as the

givers are equally blessed each time we serve.

New groups are encouraged and needed at this time (and always). If you are interested please stop by the Westminster church on any Sunday afternoon sometime between 3:00 - 5:00 pm to observe and enjoy dinner. There is always a Westminster member onsite serving as the representative, that can answer your questions and give you information on how your group can get on the schedule. You can choose how often you would like to serve. Right now ACC has one team that has been in place for over 15 years! We welcome more teams to be involved. Other questions can be directed to me, **Carol Mann** @ 202-7431. Hope you'll consider this outreach need.

Acts of Love You Don't See

Dear Church, we continue serving those in need who come to our doors. Because of you, we have funds and the ability to do so.

We work alongside a great group of other local churches. We share info and often join funds with the following local church bodies: CTK, United Methodist, St. Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army, First Baptist, Seventh Day Adventist and Family Life Assembly of God along with Love INC in Mount Vernon.

When a need comes in...we check with these other churches first, for info to help us discern the sincerity of the request. This is proving to be an excellent networking of

God's people in many ways. We are encouraging each other to be wise and to not grow weary or jaded in all the requests that come.

Other ways we help:

1) ACC covers Love INC's '293-4800' phone line costs. It's not a huge amount each month, but every little bit helps support Love INC in their ministry.

2) We give monthly to an Emergency lodging fund that is overseen by a full-time employee at the Anacortes Family Center. This person does a thorough intake interview, background check and keeps updated data, before housing anyone in one of our local

motels. This has helped ACC and other churches much, in that there is one 'clearing house' for motel requests... helping curb those who would go from church to church, requesting motel vouchers, abusing generosity. We are supplied a list of those who have abused the lodging fund or mistreated any of the motel establishments, which helps us in deciding on if we will help an individual for other needs than housing.

Thank you ACC for continuing to support this invaluable ministry. You are reaching so many in need that you just don't see.

- The Benevolence Team

Anacortes Family Center - A Success Story

The Anacortes Family Center is busy on an exciting new chapter! Our life-saving and life-changing work is expanding to meet the ever growing need of our community's most vulnerable women, children and families in crisis.

Our program is quickly becoming a national model, as an astounding 85% of our clients leave with a steady job and housing. Our success is a direct reflection of our town's dedication and generosity to provide a hand-up, and a chance for a fresh start.

Demand for shelter and programs that support self-sufficiency are growing at an alarming rate. AFC has responded to these challenges by adding in-house services. Jobs are more scarce, so we've created an employer alliance that enables employers to call us first when a job opening occurs. There is also a considerable housing crisis, so AFC is building the county's first multi-family housing development since 2006! We

are hoping to have this facility open by March, next month.

Beth & Amy's Story

Beth came to AFC with her little girl, Amy. Beth grew up in an abusive home and was kicked out after becoming pregnant. Beth and Amy couch surfed with friends' parents while she finished HS and worked full-time. She came to AFC tired and defeated.

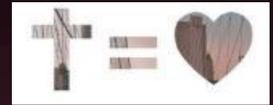
Our staff provided wrap-around services for both Beth and Amy: our volunteers worked with Beth to create a resume and conducted mock interviews. We helped her find and fund daycare for Amy. We set up an interview with a local senior-care facility that paid for her training to become a Certified Nurse's Assistant. Our weekly life skills class taught her valuable lessons like positive discipline, cooking healthy and economical meals and our 5-week "rent ready" class taught her how to be a good renter. Through case man-

agement Beth learned about household budgeting and we provided her and Amy with access to medical care. Through counseling we aided Beth with her journey to reunify with her family, and Amy got to meet her grandparents for the first time in our resource room, surrounded by staff to support them through the process.

Beth and Amy were only two of nearly 200 clients served by AFC last year. Those clients crossed all ages, races and backgrounds. Each client receives individualized and intensive support to reach self-sufficiency and success.

Your support make a profound difference in the lives we touch. Thank you for standing with the silent with us.

Sincerely,
Dustin Johnson,
Executive
Director.



1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.