

THE CONNECTION

September 2009

Are You Ready for Fall Focus?

Inside this issue:

Letter from your Leaders	2
Men's Monday Study & Retreat	2
Message from Mike's Desk	3 & 5
Missions	4
Youth News	4
Ladies Wed. Bible Study	5

Special Points

TOO MANY TO LIST!!

*Gotta look inside
for yourself.*

Keep Reading...



MESSAGE FROM YOUR ELDERS AND MINISTERS

It was a bold move to go into summer with our "Simple Summer" plan. Having pursued God's heart and having listened to feedback from a large segment of the congregation, it's time to move forward with our "Fall Focus".

We will have two services with an hour between for children's Sunday School and one Adult Sunday School class. Starting times will be 8:00am First Service, 9:30am Sunday School, and 10:30 Second Service. This new schedule will start on September 20. Kickoff Sunday is September 13th. There will be one service that day...no Sunday School hour...with a barbeque to follow the service.

Sounds pretty ordinary, doesn't it. Let me share some other goals that will make Sunday Mornings anything but ordinary. We are one church, not two. We are looking at creative ways to reinforce this reality.

We made these decisions, not because that's how we've always done it. The reason for two services is the result of a desire to be relevant to needs of people in our community. Our focus is on providing two relevant styles, both of which have strong outreach

potential. The first service will be simpler, more contemplative, quieter, yet

*We are one church,
not two.*

dynamic. We'll use fewer instruments to accompany worship songs, but different people leading worship. Message content will be somewhat similar to the second service, but not always the case. The only hiding allowed in this service will be for newcomers.

ALL will be valued and challenged!

The second service will utilize more instruments in worship music, open creativity, louder celebration and freedom to experiment to reach a different segment of our culture. The worship will be within biblical guidelines, but will encourage people to offer up worship from who they are at this moment in time...fewer traditional boundaries.

One service will tag-team the other in the sense that both will uphold the Bible and lead people to "Pursuing Christlikeness...." One will complement the other. Both will be rich and convey God's message of transforming grace. Frequent events will be planned to keep the two groups of worshippers together.

We visualize the hour between the services to be a cross between

training camp and the huddle. The adult class will teach essentials for life-change. Small groups may also be meeting to pray, or plan on how the group is going to be Jesus on the streets of Anacortes during the week. So, look for training and lively planning during this hour.

We're excited about moving ahead into the fall with a new focus. Plans are already being made for a longer-range vision for our church, and you are an important part of our vision. As Paul wrote in his letter to the Ephesians, "There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called..." (Eph. 4:4) We are being called even now to move forward together as His plan unfolds for us all.

In His Name,

The Elders and Ministers of ACC



FALL FOCUS - "KICK OFF" SUNDAY - SEPT. 13



Last week of
"Simple Summer"
ONE WORSHIP
Service (@ 9:30am)

BBQ for EVERYONE
to follow service!



FROM MIKE'S DESK

"This is your life. Are you who you want to be?"

Anyone who has listened to the music of "Switchfoot," or has even tuned in to Christian (or mainstream) radio very often will likely recognize these words as belonging to the much overplayed song, "This is Your Life." The all-too-familiar yet endlessly catchy bass line chimed in on our iPod dock this morning as I was eating breakfast. While this probably marks the ten-thousandth time I've heard the song, the words gripped me as particularly relevant to where we are today.

Throughout the course of this summer, we as the church body have been challenged to think seriously about our lives. We live in a culture that breathes busyness. It is so easy to become lost in the demands of every day. Before you know it, years pass by, and we seldom stop and ask, "Is this really what God wants?" It's one thing to be a citizen of the Kingdom, but are we *really* operating according to it? Our goal has been to challenge you and give you the opportunity to take a step back. Look at the bigger picture. Start cutting down

on clutter. Consider whether you have taken on too many obligations. Make time in your life to be "with Jesus" so that He can show you how to be more "Like Jesus." To accomplish the latter task requires sacrifice, and it requires action. It all starts with the decisions you will face even today. "This is your life. Are you who you want to be?"

As a church, we have attempted to model the same principle as much as possible. It will be extremely difficult to move forward according to what God desires if all parts of our body are busy-ing themselves as though they were independent of each other and of the whole. Remember Mary and Martha? It wasn't so much that Martha had chosen to do wrong – but Mary had chosen what was *better*. So what is best for ACC? Where is God leading, and how do we channel *all* of our strengths towards engaging in His will?

"Simple Summer" is nearly over. Now is the time to *focus* (hence the term *Fall Focus*). With school starting up again, and other activities gearing up for launch, the tendency will be to immedi-

ately lapse back into routine, and without meaning to, lose track of the need for time, space, and reflection. Our motto for the season is "Remain in Me..." (Check out John chapter 15 and you'll see why). My prayer is that we do not find ourselves enslaved to the busyness of our culture, but instead, become slaves of Christ.

Enough conceptual talk? Okay, here are the action steps we're taking, and how they can benefit you:

1. Two Services: At first, going back to two services may seem counter-intuitive. Why amidst all this talk of busyness and time would we go back to the way we were doing things before? The short answer is we're not. We're being intentional about how we move forward. Amidst a culture in desperate need of time, space, and reflection, our goal for the first service is to create that space. We hope to build an environment that is meditative, allows time for prayer and group participation, building intimacy with God and with each other.

Continued on pg. 5....keep reading

MEN OF FAITH

ATTENTION ALL MEN:

The Monday evening Men's Bible Study has some changes for this year. We will now be called "MEN OF FAITH" Bible study. Starting September 14, we will meet in Room # 205 at the church, 7:00pm, Monday nights.



Our study will end at 8:30 PM each Monday. We will be studying the book of Hebrews first this year and then

plan to proceed to Hosea. Please come and join us for study, prayer and fellowship. This is an informal group of men with mixed levels of Bible "experience". ALL men are welcome, as we spur one another on to be in God's Word and growing in our relationships with Jesus. Contact Steve McLean or Dale Clark for more info.

MEN'S RETREAT



PVCC Men's Retreat

(For Jr. High age & up)

Sept. 18-19

Theme:

"Indestructable- Lead with Him, Follow Him, or Get Out of His Way".

This is always a great time of fellowship and growth. Early registration is \$50.00. At the door it's \$55.00. Registration forms are in the foyer at the Sign up table. See Dale for more info.

For more info visit: www.mansman.net

DEACONS

Next Deacons' meeting will still be the last Sunday in September (8/27/09) after second service in Room # 205. Guys, please put this on your calendars.

A Note from the Deacons:

If you have skills in the building trades and would like to volunteer to help on various maintenance tasks on the building and parsonage, please contact Dale. (293-7043 or dajo1971@earthlink.net)

MISSIONS - WE ARE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS

Summer has been fun, but it will be good to get back on track with the ministries of ACC. During the month of September, World Aware Christians would ask that you remember our own missionaries in your prayers. If you want to know more about what each is doing, look at the kiosk in the entryway. There you will find the most up to date information coming from our missionaries.

God tells us, He will be exalted among the nations.

I've been reading a book called "Passion for the Heart of God" by John Zumwalt. Several of us from ACC had the privilege of hearing this man of God and his wife speak at the Mount Vernon Perspective Course two years ago.

In this book John Zumwalt talks about knowing the heart of God. He quotes his wife Jamie, "the secret of Christianity is not asking Jesus into your heart; it is Jesus asking us into His heart."

God tells us, He will be exalted among the nations. There is a blessing taken

from Psalm 67:1 that is often given at the end of church services. It says, "may God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us".....Do you know there is more to this verse? It continues...."that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations". We have been blessed by God to be a blessing to others.

As we listen to the daily news, I'm sure you get very discouraged as I do. Sometimes we wonder...what are you doing God?

Here is some encouraging information. God is doing a lot!!!! In AD 100, God's church was turning the world upside down. At that time there were about 360 non-Christians for every Christian. Today, it is estimated there is less than seven non-Christians for every Christian. The ratio has changed from 1/360 to 1/7. God is definitely up to something very big.

In China alone, it is estimated that there is between 20,000-30,000 new believers per day. In Indonesia, they estimate 25% to be Christian in this Muslim country. In Africa, it used to be about 3% Christian at the beginning of the century. Now, sub-Sahara Africa is 50% Christian. Is God doing something??? In his book, John Zumwalt says it is estimated around the world that 178,000 people come to Christ

every day. Not in a year, but, every day. (Pg. 12 & 13 of Zumwalt's book)

Please continue to pray for those around the world and for us here at home that our hearts beat like God's heart. We are here on this earth to be a blessing. Can you pray, can you give, can you support and encourage those who are on the field? Can you touch someone close to you with God's great message of hope and salvation? Please give freely so God's work can continue. Keep a watch on what God is doing around the world. We are living in one of the most exciting times.

We have yet to set a time for our Missions Meetings but we will have one in September. If you would like to join us, we would love to have you come on board. Please contact me, Sandy Sjogren (Missions Chair, sjog425@yahoo.com) if you would like more information.



Be watching for more announcements. In October, World Aware Christians will be focusing on Israel. We are planning something special that you won't want to miss.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

As our Simple Summer comes to a close, the JOLT team is looking forward to our Fall Focus, what God wants for the teens here at ACC.

This summer was a time to reflect on God through some different videos, allowing the team a time of rest.

This fall we are in pursuit of a deeper understanding of who God is, how He impacts our lives, whether teen or adult, and what we can do to be a part of what He is doing in Anacortes, and the world.

Upcoming Events for JOLT:



Sept. 4, Friday - First Home football game

Sept. 12, Saturday - Salmon River Car Wash Fundraiser at Bubba Sudz, 9:00AM – 2:00PM (Rain cancels)

Sept. 13 - Kick-Off Sunday

Sept. 23, Wednesday - See You At the Pole, before school, a student led event

to pray for the Middle and High schools.

Coming in October, our trip to the Corn Maze.

Be sure to pick up a new year-long permission form from any of the youth leaders. This form covers everything we do, except for YD Adventure trips.



CONTINUED FROM PG. 3...FROM MIKE'S DESK

The music will be reflective and more acoustic – not unlike how some of our Simple Summer services have been, except that other worship volunteers will be challenged to lead, expressing their own unique creativity and style as they do. The key hope is that it will be an atmosphere of worship, rest, prayer, reflection, intimacy and sacred space.

Both services will follow the same content, as the sermons will be more or less the same. The second service will not be totally unlike it has been in the past – there will be times of intimacy, reflection, prayer, etc. But one of our goals will be to promote greater freedom and whole-hearted expression in worship. The service will be more energetic than the first service for the most part. It will provide the opportunity to respond to God with celebration and thanksgiving, while at the same time being intentional about connecting with those who are suffering and broken.

You can benefit from both. You don't have to be a "first-service" or "second-service" person. At times you may connect with the second service, while at other times you may benefit from the first, depending on where you are at in your journey. Feel free to frequent both of them.

1. **Small Groups:** The challenge to "Remain in Him" is not one that any of us were meant to take on alone. This was evident in the second chapter of

Acts, starting at verse 42. But even beyond that, the entire Bible gives one instance after another of how God moves in extraordinary ways through people in the context of community and relationships. Consider Jesus' strategy when He called His twelve disciples: He didn't just show up and tell them how it's done. He said "Follow me..." In essence: "Walk with me and observe – I'll *show* you how the Kingdom of God works." Today, his followers must continue to walk through life together if we're going to have any hope of accomplishing His purposes. I'll cut to the chase: If you are not involved or are not planning on being involved in a small group of some kind, *you need to be.*

Our Small Groups are presently gearing up for Kickoff. Our leaders are excited to get things going, and we're hoping to recruit new leaders. Keep your eyes open for more information during Kick-off month, but for now, if you have any questions or would be available to lead a Small Group, please contact Mike at the church, at 293-3729. You don't have to sign your life away or sacrifice another weeknight all at once – there are options. If you are curious, let's at least get together and chat about it over coffee. We're hoping to launch into Small Groups with a bang, and you won't want to miss out. In our chaotic culture, we have to be strategic and intentional with how we plan and invest our time.

I believe you will find investing in a Small Group invaluable.

On that note, there will be more to communicate as plans develop, so stay tuned, but as much as possible, your elders and staff at ACC are doing all they can to be strategic and intentional with how we as a body move forward in *pursuing Christ's likeness*, and our prayer is that you are too.

Perhaps as you are reading this, you are realizing that the summer is flying by way too fast, and while you intended to simplify and be purposeful about your life and time "With Him," perhaps it just hasn't happened. If that's you, it's never too late. It starts today – one decision at a time. Make a choice now before the busyness of this season sets in. Choose something to sacrifice. Join a Small Group. Seek rest and time in God's Word. Let us walk with you, encouraging one another towards the goal. We'd love to connect with you and get you connected with others as well. Even if you are kicking yourself for over-committing to something as recently as yesterday, don't forget the words to the song: "Yesterday is dead and over. This is your life, are you who you want to be?"

God bless,
Mike Rauwolf



MOMS IN TOUCH

Attention All Moms and Grandmothers. After September 28, 2009 "Moms In Touch" Prayer Group will resume again. This is an opportunity to pray specifically for our children, grand children, school teachers and school administrators. Dates and times will be decided and put in the bulletin as soon as possible. Please contact Joline Clark for further information.



LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The **Wednesday Morning** Ladies Bible Study will meet briefly on Wed. Sept. 2, from 10:00 to 11:00am. We will hand out the new study books, review the study format and have a time of fellowship and prayer. Lesson 1, for "Trusting God in Times of Adversity", by Kay Arthur, will begin on Wed. Sept. 9. (A study of the book of Job) Please call Arlene French at 293-0142 for information.

FAMILY LIFE MARRIAGE CONFERENCE

Event Dates: Nov. 13-15, 2009

Location: Semiahmoo Resort, Blaine

Contact Couple: Ed & Lynne Borlin (293-6947)

Cost: \$129 per person - Group of 5 or more couples = \$89 per person.

Lodging: \$98 per night

Amidst the blur of daily life in pressure-packed times like these, it's easy for couples to grow apart. It can happen without you even noticing. That's why it's crucial to strengthen your connection before the gulf between you grows too wide. FamilyLife's Weekend to Remember can help you bond again. You'll find real, time-tested lessons that are powerful, practical and enlightening.

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For more information, visit:

www.familylife.com

WEDDING NEWS



Tyler Burch and Shannon Sleeper were united in marriage at Hope Island Inn by the Sea on August 29th, 2009. Tyler and Shannon want all of you to know that you are very special to them and wanted to share their joy with you by letting you know of their union! Tyler, Shannon and Kellie will reside in Anacortes. Their temporary address is: 901 Fidalgo Avenue, Anacortes, WA 98221

INFO PLEASE



New directories are planning to be published later this month. Please make sure the office has your current mailing address, contact phone number and email address.
~ Thanks :)

FRIENDSHIP MINISTRY

We are ready to start meeting again. We've missed you all!

The Friendship Ministry will start up again at 9:30am Sunday, September 20. If you have any questions, contact Dick or Karen Gerlach.

LOAN UPDATE

Thanks to your generous giving, we continue to pay down our building loan at a great pace. As of 8/30/09, we have paid a grand total of: **\$31,092.**

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. Let's keep it up, and get this note paid off this year.

COMING SOON . . . SEPTEMBER SUPPLEMENT NEWSLETTER



Be watching your mailbox for yet another Connections Newsletter from ACC. We are planning to have this supplemental issue to you **BEFORE** our Kick-Off Sunday, Sept. 20. Lots more specific information to share!



A C C 2009-2010 AFFIRMED LEADERSHIP *(listed alphabetically)*



ELDERS *(3 yr. term)*

Phil Madden	2012	293-7463	maddenit@fidalgo.net
Don Magness	2011 (Chair)	293-5282	d_magness@comcast.net
Patrick Mooney	2010	293-4289	elder@pistonservice.com
Ron Pinson	2010 (Secretary)	293-5298	rpinsonoms@comcast.net
Kirk Ruddell	2011 (Vice Chair)	293-5707	kruddell@islandhospital.org
Don Wenke	2010	631-5981 / c: 840-9742	dnkwenke@gmail.com

MINISTERS

John Douglas	(Preaching)	293-3729 / c: 391-3744	johnd@accweb.net
Mike Rauwolf	(Associate)	293-3729 / c: 333-7549	mike@accweb.net
Teresa Goldstein	(Youth)	293-3729 / c: 391-9500	youth@accweb.net

DEACONS *(2 yr. term)*

Dennis Asseln	2011 (Sargeant at Arms)	293-6101	deugene@fidalgo.net
Mark Bryant	2011	333-5365	malagab@gmail.com
Dale Clark	2010 (Chair)	293-7043	dajo1971@earthlink.net
Doug Findlen	2011	293-2299	dancingfindlens@verizon.net
Dick Gerlach	2010	293-7006	rkgerlach@msn.com
Sam Humble	2010	293-5957	humble.sam@verizon.net
David Juhl	2010 (Secretary)	299-0760	david_juhl@msn.com
Jeff Lofgren	2011 (Vice Chair)	293- 7884	leaflof@verizon.net
Jim McNeil	2010	293-6906	jkmcneil@msn.com
David Watterson	2011	293-5156	dwwatterson@verizon.net

DEACONESS *(2 yr. term)*

Barbara Asseln	2010	293-6101	bikermom57@fidalgo.net
Karen Gerlach	2010 (Secretary)	293-7006	rkgerlach@msn.com
Kristine Juhl	2010	299-0760	kejuhl@live.com
Sue Johnson	2011	293-2719	deejayana@comcast.net
Kerry McNeil	2010	293-6906	kmneil@msn.com
Michelle Slater	2011 (Chair)	421-5436	slaterville@comcast.net

CHURCH OFFICE & EMPLOYEES

Nancy Yount (office manager/secretary)	293-3729	office@accweb.net
Denise Cote (bookkeeper)	293-3729	denise@accweb.net
Sandy Moffitt (p/t office secretary)	293-3729	office@accweb.net
Bud Adams (maintenance/janitor)	293-3729	office@accweb.net

TRUSTEES *(3 yr. term)*

Bud Adams (2010)	293-3251
Dennis Richards (2011)	299-8935
Ken Sherman (2012)	293-6329

MINISTRY COUNCIL

Dick Gerlach (Chair)	293-7066	rkgerlach@msn.com
Doug Findlen (Vice-Chair)	293-2299	dancingfindlens@comcast.net
Bill French (Treasurer)	293-0142	bill@accweb.net
Karen Gerlach (Clerk)	293-7066	rkgerlach@msn.com



1211 M Avenue, Anacortes, WA 98221
 360-293-3729/ Fax: 293-8122
 Email: office@accweb.net

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TO:

Summer Schedule: SUNDAY SERVICE: 9:30AM
 JOLT WED. NIGHT YOUTH GROUP: 7:00PM

STAFF

John Douglas	Preaching Minister
Mike Rauwolf	Associate Minister
Teresa Goldstein	Youth Minister
Bill French	Volunteer Administrator
Nancy Yount	Office Manager/secretary
Denise Cote	Bookkeeper
Sandy Moffitt	Front Desk p/t
Bud Adams	Maintenance Manager
Lori Keller	Preschool Teacher
Michelle Costanza	Preschool Teacher



SEPTEMBER '09 ACC GENERAL INFO

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10a - Ladies Bible study meeting	3	4	5
6 9:30a - Worship service Reverse offering 1p - Area picnic 6p - Paul Wilbur service in Bothell	7 Labor Day - office closed	8	9 Public School starts 10a - Ladies study 7p - Prayer 6p - HS Boys/Girls 7p - JOLT Youth	10	11	12 9a - Youth Car Wash @ Bubba Sudz
13 Fall Focus KICK OFF 9:30a - Last Simple Summer ONE Worship service	14 7p - Bryant group 7p - Men of Faith 7p - Facilities	15	16 10a - Ladies study 7p - Prayer 6p - HS Boys/Girls 7p - JOLT Youth	17	18 PVCC Men's Retreat →	19
20 Worship services @ 8am & 10:30am SSchool @ 9:30am	21 7p - Bryant group 7p - Men of Faith	22	23 10a - Ladies study 7p - Prayer 6p - HS Boys/Girls 7p - JOLT Youth	24 7:30p-Band practice	25	26
27 Worship services @ 8am & 10:30am SSchool @ 9:30am 12p - Deacon & Deaconess meetings	28 7p - Bryant group 7p - Men of Faith	29	30 10a - Ladies study 7p - Prayer 6p - HS Boys/Girls 7p - JOLT Youth			