



Anacortes Christian Church Connections Newsletter

January 2011

STATE OF THE CHURCH MESSAGE

The president has a State of the Union message. The governor has a State of the State message. So we are providing this State of the Church message.

According to statistics, the state of the church in America is dire. That is, many churches are failing, most are not growing, nor attracting new and younger members. While this is a call to prayer for all believers, we, the Elders, are here to say that the state of Anacortes Christian Church is a healthy one.

What do we mean by "healthy?" A year ago we were in poor financial shape. Our storehouse was empty, we had a loan to pay off, and we were praying for a greater sense of unity. At this time we had just begun a great experiment in delivering our Sunday messages. John, our senior pastor, had begun sharing the preaching with the Catalyst Team, featuring our Associate Pastor Mike, Youth Pastor Teresa, and Aaron and Mark Bryant. While not preaching, Jay Lewis is also an important

part in developing the messages delivered each Sunday.

The result has been a wonderful variety of relevant messages reaching across the generations, bringing scriptural truths into our day-to-day lives, giving our congregation new perspectives and tools to use at work, home and school.

In addition, during the year we began a greater emphasis on small groups and the deeper relationships and discipling that can result from the interactions that occur when believers gather in homes and share their lives with one another.

So, as we look back on 2010 what has been the result of this grand experiment? While not everyone has been fully on-board with the changes, most have graciously adopted a wait-and-see attitude. On the whole, we have been blessed to have paid off our loan, there is an increasing amount of "grain" in our financial storehouse, we see new individuals and families with children coming to our

church, (and some returning), and there is a greater sense among the leadership and the general congregation of our church that we are on an upswing. Yet there is much work to do in this coming year.

It will be a year of teaching the basic foundations of scripture, telling the great stories of the Bible that have the Lord's eternal truths in them, and an even greater emphasis on discipling through our small groups.

Our aim is high, and unity is the key. We seek to follow Jesus wherever He leads us, to walk with Him daily and be receptive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. When we do this, relationships will be at the forefront of all we do, for that is His way. If we stay this course and continue to abide in Him we will always trust in His plan, be obedient to His leading, and will reap the harvest.

In His Name,

The Elders

INTRO TO ACC & ACC CARES

Intro to ACC:

On January 9 at 7:00pm in the Fireside Room

This is the starting place for understanding what ACC is about and how to become a part. Please sign-up at "Let's Talk." table in the WHC.

ACC Cares:

That's how we'll now refer to the Community Service kiosk, currently located in the WHC. This is continual. Open to everyone. Blank cards are available there for you to use on the weeks that they are not inserted in your

bulletin. So post a card or grab a card and help meet a need.



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Special Points

- **ACC hosts another CPR training course - Jan 24-25**
- **Game Night is back - Jan 21**
- **Men's Retreat coming - Mar 4-6**



"I Want You Back!"

Some months ago I canceled my subscription to "Consumer Reports" magazine. Great magazine with a website component and very helpful when making purchases. This entire month I have received discount offers together with the message, "We want you back!"

That's the message of "God's Redemptive Story!" "I want you back!"

God made us to love us, and with a capacity to love Him. His heartbreak is that we have run off with other lovers! Few want Him to feel bad, so we say good things about Him. But He is at best number two in our lives, and He knows it.

Not only do we break God's heart when we pursue other lovers, we also break the hearts of those around us. Family and friends. It happens every time. We are just not ourselves without God.

On January 9, we are going to start an important journey pursuing "God's Redemptive Story" in the Bible. In worship and D/Groups, we will discover insights into forgiveness, healing of brokenness, and deep, mature love. We will also look at God's wrath against those who reject, belittle, ignore His love. Heaven will have none of the attitudes that ruin relationships.

I guarantee that if you consistently experience Sunday worship services and participate in the life of a small group at ACC over the next year, you are going to grow. You are going to love your Bibles more. You are going to delight more than ever in walking in God's Spirit. You are going to experience ACC more united, more of a body, a family, a team on mission than it's been for a long time.

The "Redemptive Story" in it's fullness. God calling with all of His heart:

"I want you back!"

~ John

Benevolence at Work

Matt. 25:34 ~ Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it

to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Dear Church,

You continue to live out this passage of Scripture through your generous designated gifts to our Benevolence fund.

This past month there have been MANY in need of assistance. Here is a list of combined needs we were able to help with this past month.

Remember, that each of these needs represents a person or family that felt they had no where else to turn. They had exhausted all of their resources and were still in dire straights. One water bill helped return service to an indi-

vidual who had been disconnected a week prior to our help.

Your continued gifts make this all possible.

Prescription (\$50), PSE (\$125), 2 - Water bills (\$175), 2 - Rent assistance (\$263), 3 - Gasoline (\$60) and one Emergency shelter.



Thank you and may God return His touch and encouragement in your life in a special way.

~ Dennis & Nancy

CPR & First Aid Course - Jan 24-25



ACC will again be hosting this great course for people in our community who would like to get certified in current CPR and first aid practices and applications. Instructors for this 2 night course will be those from Medic One in Mount Vernon.

Dates: Monday, January 24, 5-9pm and Tuesday, January 25, 5-9pm.

Location: ACC Fireside room.

Cost: \$10 (for full 8 hrs.)

If you or someone you know would be interested, contact the church office (293-3729) or Bill Craig from Medic One (428-3236). Space will be limited, don't delay, reserve your spot soon.

Small Groups - Updated

Here's your updated list of our Small Group options available to you. Get into one this year! You won't regret it.

~ Mike



Mondays

Hosts: Aaron & Ami Bryant

When: Mondays, 7pm
Where: Varies, contact for details.
Who: Anyone/Couples (children welcome)

Hosts: Mark & Laurel Bryant

When: Mondays, 7pm
Where: Varies, contact for details.
Who: Anyone/Couples (children welcome)

Host: Gretchen Hanson

When: Mondays, 6pm
Where: Home of Nate & Gretchen Hanson
Who: 10th – 12th grade girls

Hosts: Mike & Dawn Rauwolf

When: Mondays, 7pm
Where: Varies, contact for details.
Who: Anyone/Couples (children welcome)

Hosts: Steve McLean / Dale Clark

When: Mondays, 7pm
Where: ACC Prayer Room
Who: Men

Tuesdays

Host: Ed Borlin

When: Tuesdays, 6pm
Where: Home of Ed & Lynne Borlin
Who: Young adults / college age

Host: Nate Hanson

When: Every other Tuesday
Where: Home of Nate & Gretchen Hanson
Who: High School / Middle School Boys

Host: Dolly Mooney

When: Every other Tuesday, 6:30pm
Where: Home of Dolly & Patrick Mooney
Who: Ladies

Wednesdays

Host: Carol Mann

When: Wednesdays, 10:00am
Where: ACC Fireside room
Who: Women's Bible Study

Host: Teresa Goldstein

When: Wednesdays, 6pm
Where: ACC
Who: 7th – 9th grade girls

Hosts: Kirk & Donna Ruddell

When: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 6:45pm
Where: Home of Kirk & Donna Ruddell
Who: Anyone / Couples

Hosts: Jeff & Kathy Lofgren

When: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 6:30pm
Where: Home of Jeff & Kathy Lofgren
Who: Couples

Thursdays

Hosts: June Pierce & Jeannie McCoy

When: Thursdays, 2pm
Where: Home of John & Gail Douglas
Who: Women

Hosts: Art & Anne Kendall

When: 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7pm
Where: Home of Art and Anne Kendall
Who: Anyone / Couples

Hosts: Jay & Linda Lewis

When: 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7pm.
Where: Home of Jay & Linda Lewis
Who: Anyone / Couples

Host: Penny Rustad

When: Thursday, 6:30pm
Where: Home of Bruce & Penny Rustad
Who: Ladies
**Group is currently closed, but plans for transition are under way for the near future.*

JOLT News

New Years Adam was a great success! - On Thursday night, Dec. 30, we had over 130 teens attend this event. All had a wonderful time and we expect our teens to be a great influence on Anacortes in 2011.

Would you be willing to pray for a teen? Coming soon, Teen Encouragement Week! Teresa will be collecting names of people who would like to pray for one of our teens for a week. Our week will conclude with a special lunch where you and your teen will get to meet and spend time together. Sign ups will begin January 9, in the entryway. Last year's event was enjoyed by all, don't miss this exciting opportunity! Dates this year are February 14 - 20, please be in

prayer about your involvement. See Teresa if you have questions.

The leaders and teens at JOLT would like to thank the host homes and cooks that participated in our Annual Progressive Dinner Christmas Party. Thank you for opening up your homes, and the food was fabulous! Everyone had a wonderful time.

Stay tuned for information on this year's Mall Invasion. Teens will travel to Alderwood Mall to search for Youth Leaders and other adults in this event sponsored by the Anacortes Youth Network.

Game Night is BACK

Family game night will resume the 3rd Friday of January (21st) at 7 p.m.

Join us in the Fireside Room for an evening of fellowship and games.

Bring your favorite game and a snack. Coffee and tea will be provided.

See you there!



A Minute with Missions

During the month of January we will continue to focus on the *Persecuted Church*. Please read the booklets that were passed out in November. If you did not get one, there is some for you to take in the church foyer.

On **January 16th** (Sunday night) we will have focused prayer time to remember those who are standing up for

Christ even in the face of imprisonment or death. We will begin at 6:30pm. This will be a time to learn more about the persecuted church. Please be watching for more information.

Also, **January 11th**, (Tues. evening) we will have a Missions meeting. This will start at 6:30pm at the church. We will meet in the Welcome Home Center.

During this meeting we will be focusing on Faith Promise weekend which will happen in March. Please come and join us if you have a heart for missions or would like to help with this weekend. Faith Promise is a time we set aside to focus on the missionaries ACC supports. It will be a weekend you won't want to miss.

~ Sandy

Letter from Pleasant Valley Christian Camp

Dear friends at Anacortes Christian Church,

On the forest road that leads into the camp there is a stretch that has a year around creek that runs parallel to it, sometimes clear to highway #7. I say sometimes because the forest service recognized that the volume of water that comes off the surrounding hills in winter and the down hill grad of the road can lead to disastrous results.

To take care of this problem they built in two culverts that directed the water to another area away from the road all together. Over the years maintenance on these culverts has been deferred and ignored. As a result the winter flow has run unchecked down the south side of the road for many years and has cut the ditch on that side as deep as 20 feet. (Not a place to be looking the other direction and drive off the road).

This has been a problem for many years but has largely gone unnoticed as the brush along side of the road grew to the point of concealing the danger.

Last year they mowed the brush back and lo and behold there were several areas of the road that were falling into this deep ditch. One delivery driver that comes here every other week commented on the new damage to the road. I told him it was old and that he

just could not see it before. With the damage apparent the forest service repaired the culverts and once again the stream was diverted to a safe area.

In a lot of ways what has happened to the road is also what is happening in today's culture and especially with youth.

Our lives are like a road in which we continually travel. For Christians the ultimate destination of this road is Heaven. Along side of this life road is a stream of sin that is constantly trying to cut through and keep us from our destination. Sin unchecked can run wild and quickly eat away at our road especially during times of storms when life seems to be flooding all around us.

If we allow the brush and stuff of life to grow along side our road the danger and damage may go unnoticed for many years. Our road may be severely undermined and what we thought was safe could fall away from under us.

As Christians our solution is Jesus. The cross of Christ is like the culvert that has taken away the stream of sin and diverted it away from us. If we let the brush and stuff of this life grow and build up around our road and the cross, we risk losing sight of it and end up ignoring it all together with disastrous

Sin unchecked can run wild and quickly eat away at our road...

results. We have to keep the way to the cross clear as well as our life's road of all the brush and stuff.

What I like about camp is that it is an opportunity to help cut the brush and stuff of this life away and to examine our roads for danger spots.

Camp is a place to let Jesus take away our sin problem and firmly install Him as Savior and King.

Camp is a place for repairing and making our road safe once again for all of eternity.

Thank you for your investment into this ministry. This year was again rough one financially, but with your faithful help, along with many others, we are still here and we are getting ready for another summer of brush cutting.

May your road be clear, firm and fruitful as you continue to walk with the Savior. Merry Christmas from all of us here at Pleasant Valley Christian camp.

~ Dan Hamilton

A Thank You Note ~ We wanted to let Pastor John and all the people at ACC that we are truly thankful for the generous Christmas gift. Thanks to Pastor John for hand delivering to our home. We are so appreciative that I really don't have the words to write. Just know that we appreciate all that the church has given our family during our time of unemployment. Good news, Rob has been hired by an Engineering firm in Vancouver B.C.. HE will start work on January 1. Also, I was approached by the LaConner School District and asked to work one on one with a student. God has blessed our family tremendously during the last few months. We thank you for all your generosity! ~ The McGaughey family

Directory Updates



Linda Fischer – email:
lfischer08@comcast.net

Sherry Scott – email:
sherrys@nbnwdesign.com

Shamrock Steele – phone:
 360-840-0979

Claire Ingstad – email:
claireingstad@comcast.net

Don & Kathy Wenke – address:
 1112 19th St., Anacortes, WA 98221

Last, but by no means least...For our Men and more

1) Our next Men' Breakfast will be Saturday January 22, 2011 at 8:30am. Ron Pinson will be sharing some Fishing stories. Please sign up by in the foyer by January 19, so we can ensure the correct amount of food is prepared. Contact Dale for more information.

2) There also will be a Men's Advance Retreat on March 4-6, 2011. Please contact *Dale Clark* for more information. Reservations and signup is time sensitive.

Facilities Committee ~ There will be a facilities planning meeting in late January. Members of the committee will be contacted when a date is set. See Dale for further information or if you have ideas to bring to this committee.

The Deacons' Meeting for January will be after second service on Sunday January 30, 2011. Please forward agenda items to Dale by January 23.





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ANACORTES WA
PERMIT NO 84

1211 M Avenue, Anacortes, WA 98221
360-293-3729/ Fax: 293-8122
Email: office@accweb.net
Website: www.accweb.net
Preschool website: preschool@accweb.net
* Office hours: M-Th, 8:30a-4:30p, Fridays, 8:30a-1pm

TO!



SUNDAY SERVICES: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:30 AM
JOLT WED. NIGHT YOUTH GROUP: 7:00PM

Staff & Employees

John Douglas Senior Minister
Mike Rauwolf Associate Minister
Teresa Goldstein Youth Minister

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



JANUARY '11



GENERAL INFO

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 NEW YEARS DAY!!
2 8/10:30am-Services 9:30am - SSchool	3 6p - HS gals group 7p-(2)Bryant groups 7p - Rauwolf group 7p - Men of Faith	4 6p - Borlin group	5 10a - Ladies study 6p - MS gals group 6:45p - Ruddell group 7p - JOLT Youth	6 2p - McCoy group 7p - Kendall group	7	8
9 8/10:30am - Services 9:30am - SSchool 7p - Intro to ACC	10 6p - HS gals group 7p-(2)Bryant groups 7p - Rauwolf group 7p - Men of Faith	11 6p - Borlin group 6p - HS/MS guys group	12 10a - Ladies study 6p - MS gals group 7p - JOLT Youth 7p - Lofgren group	13 2p - McCoy group 6:30p - Aktion Club 7p - Lewis group	14	15
16 8/10:30am - Services 9:30am - SSchool Persecuted Church Prayer night	17 6p - HS gals group 7p-(2)Bryant groups 7p - Rauwolf group 7p - Men of Faith	18 6p - Borlin group	19 10a - Ladies study 6p - MS gals group 6:45p - Ruddell group 7p - JOLT Youth	20 2p - McCoy group 7p - Kendall group	21 7p- Game Night	22 8:30a - Men's Bfast
23 8/10:30am - Services 9:30am - SSchool 12p-Deaconess mtg.	24 5p - CPR course 6p - HS gals group 7p-(2)Bryant groups 7p - Rauwolf group 7p - Men of Faith	25 5p - CPR course 6p - Borlin group 6p - HS/MS guys group	26 10a - Ladies study 6p - MS gals group 7p - JOLT Youth 7p - Lofgren group	27 2p - McCoy group 6:30p - Aktion Club 7p - Lewis group	28	29
30 8/10:30am - Services 9:30am - SSchool 12p - Deacons mtg.	31 6p - HS gals group 7p-(2)Bryant groups 7p - Rauwolf group 7p - Men of Faith					

ACC Office Hours: M - Th, 8:30am-4:30pm, Fridays, 8:30am-1:00pm

