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Up-to-Date at Applewood Newsletter (June 2018)

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MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS:

Women's Ministry Update

Carrie Wallace

The women of AWCC are rich in wisdom, experience, humor and compassion – that is why it is such an honor to be the Women's Ministry Coordinator (for lack of a better term!). I love seeing women connect, find common ground, support and learn from each other. Using the IF:Table model has been a natural and simple way to get women to gather together and spend time in fellowship. At an IF:Table, the topic/discussion questions are all provided ahead of time, so there is no pressure to be a brilliant conversationalist or teacher! In addition, there is no prep or reading that anybody needs to do before they come – they just show up and be present. All it takes is someone willing to set up a time and a place! It's beautifully uncomplicated. We have taken a short hiatus from planning IF:Tables, but summer is a great time to get a group together to talk and dig deeper in our friendships and relationship with God. If you feel a tug in your heart to set up an IF:Table, let me know! It can be as easy as iced tea and store-bought cookies shared on the front porch.

New Ministry Opportunity!: Come to the Cross

Matthew Granitto

Applewood Community Church is about to embark on a new ministry opportunity. Every Sunday at the close of our celebration service there will be a small prayer gathering near the foot of the cross at the southwest corner of the sanctuary. These are some details so far; know this ministry is an evolving process and changes should be expected:

- "Come to the Cross" is the name of this prayer ministry and will begin mid-June.
- It will provide an opportunity for congregants and guests to set aside time following the service to pray about whatever the Holy Spirit has laid on their hearts, minds, and souls. The Spirit may lead brothers and sisters to share prayer needs with prayer partners (or *assistants, ministers*).
 - Some worshippers come to church with hearts and spirits already weighed down with specific concerns.
 - Others find through the course of the service, worship and prayer are drawing them closer to GOD and the body of Christ.
 - Still others will be prompted by the conviction of GOD's message, as if the Holy Spirit is speaking directly to them, "This is your life—My words apply to you and to your situation."
- Prayer partners will come to the cross after Pastor Guy gives the benediction. Initially, ten to fifteen minutes will be set aside for prayer, even if no one else comes forward. GOD is always present in the gathering of two or more saints.
- Prayer partners will listen and pray...GOD alone fixes, gives discernment, provides direction, heals broken hearts, and brings true peace, often through members of the body of Christ. It is possible "Come to the Cross" will provide opportunities for evangelism, rededication, and renewal for those whose spirits have been stirred.
- A prayer team schedule will be created, similar to the schedules used by Kids Crossing volunteers and worship team ministries. It is possible that unscheduled prayer partners will join in prayer.
- **Prayer partners are needed!** It would be ideal if both a man and woman partner (at least) were present at the cross each Sunday.

We should not leave Applewood with prayer needs still pressing on us. There have been many Sundays when I left church thinking I would deal with these needs later, only to find I had forgotten them in the resumption of my daily life in a fallen world. "Come to the Cross" will provide an opportunity for us to draw near to GOD, supported and encouraged by the presence of brothers and sisters in Christ.

"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances (or *gifts*). But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form (or *appearance*) of evil." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-22)

Has GOD already been speaking to you about this ministry? Please give "Come to the Cross" your consideration, and contact me with any questions or comments you may have.

OUT AND ABOUT:

Mission Trip to Belize

Tim & Rosie Hughes

We went to Belize on a medical missions trip through World Gospel Outreach (WGO).

The purpose of the trip was to reach rural Belizeans by holding free medical clinics. We took down medications and supplies, many of which are not available in Belize. All those seen were also seen one on one to address spiritual health.

Belize is beautiful. We have all seen the pictures of beaches, zip lines through the jungle, and underwater beauty that takes your breath away. If you travel 60 miles into the country, however, a different Belize emerges. The culture is a mix of influence and people groups from Kriol, Maya, and European countries. The language is a blend of Creole, Spanish, and English. Over 40 percent of Belizeans live in poverty. Unemployment is very high. Most children are raised by single moms. Crime, drugs, and untreated illness have impacted all but the wealthiest families. Through it all, the church is active in Belize. Although there are still pagan beliefs among the people, most have heard about Jesus. Local churches are led by pastors who are not paid. They have day jobs to pay their bills and congregations to serve in their "spare time" which is "all the time."

WGO also serves Honduras and has a trip scheduled for January 2019. The next trip to Belize will be in May 2019. If interested, contact Tim or Rosie Hughes. Need not be medical to serve. Guaranteed to NOT see the beach but to see the people.

LOOKING FORWARD:

CHAOS

Justin LeVett

During the summer, CHAOS has midweek nights full of fun, community building, discipleship, and discussions on topics relevant to the ages of seventh to twelfth grade students! Send your students to an amazing night every Wednesday from 7:00pm - 8:30pm. Additionally, we will have a fun event periodically throughout the summer. If you know what CHAOS means send your answer to Justin for a prize.

Community Garden Open House

Cappi Baumgart

WHERE: The Community Garden at Applewood Community Church

WHAT: 12th Annual Garden Open House

WHEN: Monday July 23rd, 6:30 to 8pm

We'll celebrate another season of the garden with ice cream sundaes and live music! Bring your neighbors and join us for a special evening to see what's growing in the garden!



NOTEWORTHY:

Confirmation Celebration

Justin LeVett

This past Sunday, June 17th, we celebrated the hard working Confirmation students. Over the course of the year a group of 7th-12th grade students Journeyed their way through Confirmation. At AWCC we do Confirmation a little differently from most churches because of our size. Confirmation is held every couple of years, which is why this year's class included a group of students ranging from seventh through twelfth grades. The students have done a great job with our accelerated Confirmation Course called The Journey. Usually a 2 year track, they completed the course in one year! Amazing. Each student has learned about the Bible, the Evangelical Covenant Church, and their identity in Christ. It was a blessing to celebrate the their' graduation from childhood into the next phase of their lives. I am excited to see these students continue maturing throughout their adolescence and into adulthood.

Honoring Gary Walter - Outgoing President of Our Denomination

Lee Richman

Gary Walter is retiring as president of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) this year. He served as a pastor for many years, after which he was called as director of church planting. During this time he was instrumental in the formation, planting, and support of Applewood Community Church. He later served as executive minister of Church Growth and Evangelism and as president of the denomination.



During his 40 years of ministry, God has blessed the Covenant with the planting of more than 400 churches, doubled attendance in Covenant churches with more decisions for Christ, Covenant mission partnerships in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas, the Middle East, and North Africa. 30% of American Covenant congregations are now among populations of color or intentionally multiethnic, and the Covenant has pursued a deeper, more intentional commitment to justice, racial righteousness and reconciliation.

The Covenant has invited us to honor Gary's service through participation in the Strategic Initiative Fund (SIF), which will be used to further the mission and ministry growth of the ECC. The initiative envisions planting 500 churches and reaching 100,000 new believers in the next ten years, training and equipping leaders through the Center for World Christian Studies, continuing to invest in justice and social enterprise, and broadening care and support of Covenant clergy, as well as other ministries.

Please prayerfully consider making a gift or pledge to the SIF in Gary's honor to help move the Covenant further in its mission to the glory of God. Checks or pledges may be placed in the donation boxes in church or forwarded to Karen Snuffer. Please earmark them for the SIF.

Discipleship (Part 1)

Carrie Wallace & Laura Brant

Hi Congregation,

After the women's retreat, several women were re-energized to focus on the call to make disciples at the end of Matthew 28:18-20: *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Things we learned/were reminded of from the speakers at the women's retreat:

1. Discipleship is a call for all believers. We are all equipped to disciple if we are a follower of Jesus.
2. It is not complicated.
3. Since none of us are Jesus, the relationship is two-way, even though someone is discipling and the other person is being disciplined.
4. The focus of the discipleship relationship is to become a more devoted follower of Jesus, so time spent will include learning from God's Word, praying, sharing.
5. Nobody needs a special skill set in order to disciple, nor does one need to be of a certain age or life stage to be disciplined. Jesus can use/reach each of us where we stand.

Our hope is for women and men of our church to use the month of July to pray for discipling to become a part of the bedrock of our church.

Additionally, we hope that each of us would pray for God to put on our heart a person to disciple or someone we would like to disciple us. Both of these relationships can happen at the same time.

There will be more information to come! Until then, an IF:Equip study just began on 6/11 called "Woven" --- about discipling! The introduction to the study can be found here → www.ifequip.com/content/woven-introduction

Please join us in praying.

Parking Lot Update

Heather Platt

AWCC's parking lot is 50+ years old, and all those years of service have taken their toll. Flowers are actually growing out of cracks near the base of the single light pole. Other cracks and large potholes in the parking lot present trip hazards and trap water that turns to slippery ice in the winter. While these hazards alone make walking across the parking lot a bit of an adventure at any time of the year, the poor lighting from the single light pole in the middle further amplifies the risk of someone taking a fall



during evening events taking place in the winter months. It is time to re-pave the parking lot and improve the lighting before a serious injury occurs!

The Parking Lot team has determined that between \$150,000 - \$170,000 is needed to completely re-pave the existing parking lot, improve the lighting, and comply with local building codes. The project includes the following items:

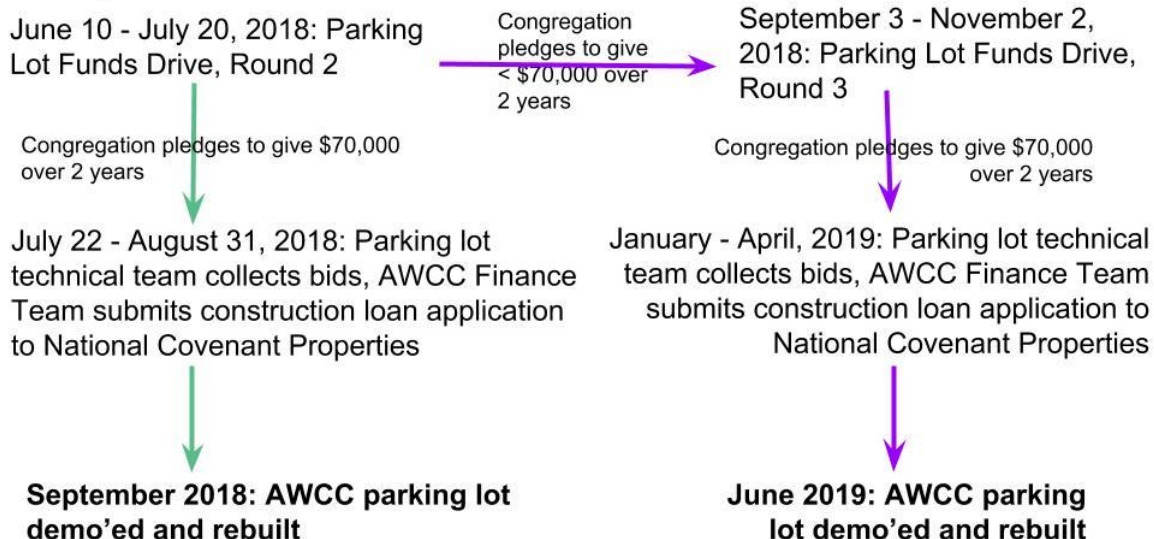
- Final technical plans, survey, quality control: \$15,000 - \$20,000
- Site preparation, 6" asphalt, striping, curbs/gutters, and concrete pad to support garbage truck (5/2018 quote): \$115,500
- Conduit under the parking lot to handle additional power needs for future Building Phase II expansion: \$3,000
- Lighting: \$15,000 - \$20,000
- Dumpster enclosure (required by building code): \$2,000
- Landscape repair: \$5,000 - \$15,000

Completing all of these items will ensure decades of service from a well lit new parking lot. The surveying and quality control will ensure proper drainage to keep water flowing away from the parking and walking areas, and the concrete pad will be able to withstand the extra load that the garbage truck exerts when it comes through to empty the dumpster. This plan will also ensure the parking lot won't need to be torn up again in the future if the AWCC family grows enough to need another addition to the building. The Phase II building plans will require more electrical power that would have to come in from 32nd Ave and run under the parking lot. There are some items that were not included in the plan because they would add substantial cost. This list includes islands and trees in the parking lot, even though they would make it more appealing, as well as increasing the size of the parking lot to accommodate congregational growth.

The generous people who call AWCC home have already been contributing to the parking lot fund, and there is just over \$75,000 in that account. Praise God! Subtracting that amount from \$170,000 leaves a maximum of \$95,000 that is still needed to complete the construction of the new parking lot. During the first fundraising drive for the parking lot in 2016, the congregation pledged 74% of the money they actually gave by the end of 2017. If this second fundraising effort proceeds similarly to the first one, then pledges for 70% of \$95,000 (\$66,500) should indicate that the congregation will ultimately give the entire amount needed by the end of 2019. While it would be ideal to complete this project entirely with cash, the AWCC Finance Team has determined that a construction loan from National Covenant Properties, a division of the denomination to which AWCC belongs, would be a cost effective way to bridge the gap between the money already in the parking lot fund and the total amount needed to complete construction while the congregation completes its giving. The rate on the loan would likely be 5%, which would mean an additional \$4,000 - \$5,000 in interest per year for a maximum of two years.

During a special congregational meeting on June 3, the congregation discussed all of this information, and determined the potential liability of someone falling and being seriously injured in the parking lot needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. The annoyance of picking up loose asphalt chunks, as well as the generally run down appearance of the parking lot, were also motivating factors. An almost unanimous vote (one member agreed with moving forward but preferred cash only for the project), approved the following timeline:

Project Timeline



As a result of that vote, the second round of parking lot fundraising is now underway. If the congregation pledges to give \$70,000 by July 20, 2018 (money to be actually given by the end of 2019), then the parking lot construction project will begin in September, 2018. Please prayerfully consider how much you are able to contribute to the parking lot fund between now and the end of 2019, keeping in mind this amount would be in addition to your regular giving to AWCC. Commitment cards will be available in the Sunday morning bulletin, as well as on the lobby table, and can be placed in the offering box at the back of the sanctuary. You are also welcome to contact Karen Snuffer, AWCC's financial secretary, directly at kfsnuffer@yahoo.com. Many thanks for your generosity!

NEWSLETTER MODUS OPERANDI & CONTACTS:

Communicate

Email, call or write a handwritten note to Laura Brant and Jennifer Melby about a story or topic you would like to submit for the newsletter.

Submit

The deadline for submitting material for the newsletter to Laura or Jennifer will be the 10th of each month. Please submit material to us via email as that will make it easy to compile everything for the newsletter.

Distribution

We send out the *Up-to-Date at Applewood Newsletter* via email and the AWCC website around the 15th of each month**.

**If you would like to receive a hard copy, please see Laura or Jennifer.

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