



12930 W 32nd Ave. Golden, CO 80401 • 303-424-3817 • contact@awcclive.org • www.awcclive.org

Up-to-Date at Applewood Newsletter
July 2018

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MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS:

Wednesday Nights at Your Church - Check out what you may be missing.

Ellen Green

We have all heard how important it is to eat together as a family—imagine the extra benefits of eating together with the people you worship with each Sunday, your church family. The wafting aroma of dinner cooking, spirited conversation, and kids being kids. People gathering around a table. It happens every Wednesday evening September through April in the Applewood Community Church basement. We call it Alafia (oasis).

Sounds a little old fashioned like something folks used to do? Sure it does and here are some reasons to keep it going. There is nothing quite like a home cooked meal—especially one cooked by someone else. The table is a place to commune. Stories are shared, meetings take place, needs are expressed. We share life together and our bodies and souls are nourished. We model life together for our children. Kids eat with friends, try new foods, converse with other adults who genuinely care for them and there is always dessert! The kids who regularly come to Alafia are sad when we break for the summer. Just ask the younger Clarks, Noces or Seybolds. Our building becomes a warm and welcoming space when our youth start gathering at 7:00 for CHAOS. Often kids will stop by the kitchen to eat whatever may be left over.

I love looking out over the room when the evening is in full swing. With 30 to 40 of us we resemble one big raucous multi-generational family doing what Jesus intended us to do, rub shoulders with one another.

Something good happens when we gather together at the table—AND YOU ARE INVITED! Look for the start up date this September, and make Alafia your mid-week oasis.

OUT AND ABOUT:

CCU Trip to Ecuador- June 16-July 3 - Amy Sue and Viviana Pinto

Amy Sue Pinto

Speaking generally of my life, I relish beauty, even in simple things like a pretty piece of fruit. While in Ecuador, I continued the search, and witnessed it in many ways: watching a group of teenagers playing cheerfully on the playground we just painted and reconnecting with some youth that were still intently following Jesus since I had been with them two years ago. In addition, we had dinner with a group of people including Venezuelans, Ecuadorians (from various tribes), Americans, and a fun Dominicana, all gathered together at the same table. A gal from our team was baptized on my birthday in a jungle river. I saw shy smiles from



little girls living in the jungle after we styled their hair with colorful barrettes and hair ties. We shared lots of love with songs, crafts, games, and Bible stories in a number of villages in remote areas with many children and mommas. A guy from our team painted two lovely murals on two exterior church walls. Through conversations, encouragement and through our team. It was a truly beautiful, adventurous, and fantastic trip!

Vivi was absolutely fabulous, a natural! She ate everything, did not complain, experimented with her Spanish, worked diligently, and used her gift of arts and crafts for Jesus. I am so proud of that girl! :) Thanks for your prayers, financial and emotional support for her too. I was able to see missions and cultural awareness afresh through her eyes. What a blessing!

Royal Family Kids' Camp Report

Pastor Guy

Once again this summer, we were blessed to serve as "Aunt Chari and Uncle Guy" at Royal Family Kids Camp (RFKC) to 74 children, ages 7-11, the majority of whom live in foster homes. We spent the week of June 26, teaming up with Justin and Rachel LeVett, Craig and Vonnie Nelson, Steve Dratz, and dozens of other volunteers (one from as far away as South Dakota) to love on kids all week long. And what a week it was!

The boys slept in yurts, the girls in cabins, and the days, as you would expect, were filled with activity: swimming, archery, horseback riding, fishing, crafts, and lots of games. And Wednesday night, of course, was the annual birthday party! It is always a joy to see the kids' faces when they walk into a room decorated for a party--complete with balloons, cakes, candles and lots of gifts! We have learned many foster children never have a birthday party, so camp birthday party is a very special and important tradition.

Our camp theme this year was "life construction" and our daily Bible lessons were focused around the story of Nehemiah. We emphasized the importance of trusting God, believing that He has a good plan for our lives, praying and choosing to follow Him, no matter how hard life can be. We tried to bring to life some of the struggles that Nehemiah experienced; loneliness, life in a strange place, betrayal by people, etc. We know that many of the children can relate to the emotions that Nehemiah would have felt, but as he experienced the faithfulness of God, our prayer was that they, too, would find God to be faithful and trust that He has a good plan for their lives!

As always, RFKC was an exhausting week, but a wonderful, God-filled, and blessed one! It is an honor to give the time and to love on the kids with the hope that they will come to know God and experience his love and grace, choosing to trust Him!

Thanks for your prayers, AWCC family! We were strengthened and encouraged to know that you were lifting us up all week long! May God continue His gracious work in the life of each precious child who was at camp!

Grateful to serve Him,
Guy and Charissa

LOOKING FORWARD:

CHAOS

Justin LeVett

During the summer, CHAOS has midweek nights full of fun, community building, Bible study, 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:

A Ministry Opportunity...

Greg Green

You might have noticed some recent changes around the building and grounds, such as the new storage closet beneath the west stairs. This is in large part, to the efforts of Mark Albrecht and Andy Platt. You may have also noticed the absence of Severe Weather Shelter supplies at the top of those stairs and in the men's and women's showers (supplies are now in said closet) having been methodically culled and expertly organized by Tracy Thayer and Cheryl Johnson. New doors on the north storage shed and addition of an outdoor food pantry, projects competently headed by Tim Hughes. The cost of labor as well as some of the materials for these projects were all generously donated.

One of the projects mentioned above is not complete--the new closet needs to be sheet-rocked to meet code and have lighting installed. That's not in the Facilities budget. Our split-rail fencing needs to be repaired and new sections added--also not in the budget. There are a couple other items being considered that, you guessed it, are not in the budget either. None of these things,

considered separately, are budget-busters, but they all do add up. And that's where you can help.

Twenty, 50 or 100 dollars would go a long way to covering the cost of any one of these projects. If you feel led to contribute monetarily to these and other small projects as the need for them arises, you may slip a donation check into one of the giving boxes. On the memo line, please specify "Special Projects" so that your contribution can be handled appropriately.

Thank you so much for your consideration. It is a pleasure serving the AWCC community.

AWCC Vacation Bible School Recap

Pastor Sarah Lynch

The week of June 11-15th saw AWCC transformed into God's Galaxy, an outer space adventure Vacation Bible School. We had 35 kids signed up and spent the week learning through fun puppet shows, games, snacks, crafts, and Bible lessons. We learned that God is powerful, holy, and love. And we learned that He made us His masterpiece – not just any ordinary old piece of work – with a plan and a purpose. We can shine for Him like the stars in the sky shine their praise.



During the week we asked kids to go home and do extra work or chores to raise money for children at For His Children in Ecuador, a home that several in our church have ties to and have visited on mission trips. The kids worked hard and raised \$237!

I would like to send a huge THANK YOU to everyone that helped with VBS, from supplying donations to making decorations and those that spent the week serving. You all helped reach the kids both from our church and the community with the powerful truth of their identity in Christ, and that is a lesson that can stick with them for life.

The kids have all been asking what the plans are for next year. I don't know our theme yet but am planning on having VBS again – so start praying early about where you can be involved in the summer of 2019!

Leadership Team Questionnaire, 2nd edition

Rachel LeVett - R

Jim Green - J

1. How did God call you to be on the leadership team?

R: I was initially on the nominating team, actually. I had considered in my head, "I think it would be cool to be on the LT," but didn't really think that I would do it. As we continued to pray through the nominations and a team took shape, Guy wondered if I'd like to join. I prayed and prayed, and it became clear that this is what God has planned for me.

J: Prior to being approached about the Leadership Team, I had been praying for some time about “what’s next” in anticipation of my recent retirement from working full time as an engineer. God had put it on my heart that this transition should be something of a “commencement”, not merely a retirement. In particular, I felt the conviction that the Leadership Team invitation was a call to serve the AWCC church family, directly and personally support Pastor Guy, and be in a position of utter dependence on God.

2. Did you have any advance ideas about how the team would function?

R: It is such a new thing for our church, I tried not to have too many expectations about how the team would run. I did expect the team meetings to be a vibrant time of envisioning and praying for our church. I hope that it is a team that is life giving to one another, and to our church.

3. Describe a typical team meeting?

R: We start each meeting with scripture and prayer. We spend time discussing any news of ministry teams. When we are able, we are reviewing the work of the FOST, and the Vitality Team report. We also eat lots of chocolate!

4. What current areas is the team praying about?

R: We are praying about is the work of the FOST and the Vitality Report. We are working on digging into that, seeing how to move forward as a result of the work that team did. We are also praying and reflecting about how to be a team that has a strong bond and is effective in leadership.

5. Are there defined roles on the leadership team - besides the team leader?

R: Aside from the team leader and secretary (required jobs), we don’t have any specifically defined role for each person. Each person has come along side different ministry leaders, and we follow up with each of those people. And we fill in where there seems to be a need.

6. For those who have served on other church committees or council, do you notice a difference between the leadership team and the previous models?

J: We are still figuring out the difference between the Leadership Team and the Council of Deacons. It will be a process, and we have a good start. But having served previously on the Council, I can say the Leadership Team has a very different feel. It is less an administrative group conducting business and more of a fellowship seeking God together.

NEWSLETTER MODUS OPERANDI & CONTACTS:

Communication

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.

Submittal

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.

Laura Brant jason1brant@yahoo.com • Jennifer Melby jennifer.k.melby@gmail.com
