

# Spiritual Life at ACS

JUNE 2011

2010-2011 School Year

## Mission Statement

Our desire is for God to impact our school community by deepening our connection with Him and with each other through worshipful chapels, discipleship of the student body, promoting unity among parents and spiritually encouraging the teachers and staff.

2010-11

ACS Spiritual Theme

## Growing in Christ

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:18

## Growing in Christ ...

*Growing in Christ* was the theme for ACS monthly chapels this year. Each month was devoted to a new and exciting way that we as a school community could grow. We learned all the tools we use to grow in Christ – the Bible, music, a prayer journal, devotional books, and people. Then this was taken a step farther each month.

The kids learned scripture each month associated with how we were going to grow during that month. Each month a class filled a growing pot with items or ideas that they learned about for the monthly theme in their individual classrooms. We corporately sang praise songs to worship God. Each month a different class received a plant to watch grow in their classrooms as a reminder of the theme. As the plant

grew, we also grew in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

How did we grow this year at ACS? The students and staff grew in joy (Psalm 126:3), knowledge (Colossians 1:10), thanksgiving (Ephesians 5:20), peace (Colossians 3:15), faith (Hebrews 11:1), love (Ephesians 5:2), wisdom (Proverbs 2:6), grace (Ephesians 2:8) and prayer

(Philippians 4:6). As our theme song says, “knowing you Jesus, knowing you, there is no greater thing.”

We ended chapel each week hand in hand, with our arms lifted high singing “My Friends May You Grow in Grace” ... and we trust that we did.

~Julie Van Oordt



“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”  
2 Peter 3:18

## Moms in Touch ... meets on Thursdays from 8:45-9:45am.

MIT is a prayer ministry of community moms who meet for one hour once a week to stand in the gap and intercede for their children, teachers and school. Whether your prayer is for your child to receive a spirit of

confidence (Phil 4:13), teachability (Prov 6:20), truthfulness (Prov 12:22), etc., or whether you carry a much heavier burden for them, Lamentations 2:19 says, “Pour out your heart like water before the Lord”. MIT

meets on Thursdays from 8:45-9:45am at ACS in the Art Room. Questions? Call Cindy at 895-1223 or check out this ministry at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bvd-kcDek6w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bvd-kcDek6w).

## Spiritual Life at ACS

### “Crazy Love, overwhelmed by a relentless God ... by Francis Chan.

The Crazy Love book study opened up the hearts and minds of an intimate group of ladies from various backgrounds and age groups. As we began, we dwelt upon the awesomeness of our Creator God, the intimate relationship He desires with us, the right heart and mind of Christ we must work towards, how that looks and how we can encourage one another towards

Him with authenticity and devotion. We benefited from praying with and for each other, sharing thoughts of what hinders us in our various walks, and how we need to continue to pursue God while building each other up with the only true 'crazy love' of Christ. We finished with reluctance wanting to continue to share and to grow, to pray and to encourage. We are al-

ready talking about studying Chan's next book.



~In Him

Bonny Baar and  
Stephanie Roelofs

#### Advance Notice:

**Prayer Covering for  
the 2011/2012  
school year**

All parents and grand-  
parents are invited to  
join us on

**Wednesday, August 31**

at 11:30 am in the  
**ACS Rotunda**

For More Information  
Call Cindy at 895-1223



**And pray in the Spirit  
on all occasions with  
all kinds of prayers  
and requests.**

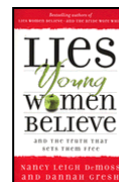
**Ephesians 6:18**

### 8th Grade Girls Bible Study ... by Cindy Driesenga

In February, the 8th grade girls were invited to participate in a 6-week Bible Study. During our first week we took a close look at the deceiver and discovered God has a lot to say about the enemy of our souls. The Bible is full of names, adjectives and warnings of the evil one. We looked up many verses that describe him and his work and we discussed ways we cooperate with his deception. Since we know there is a spiritual battle raging, it was eye opening to discover some of the strategies of our enemy.

During week two and three we worked our way through excerpts from the book, "Lies Young Women Believe

and the Truth That Sets them Free", by Nancy Leigh DeMoss. We looked at 25 common lies that young women believe about God, Satan, ourselves, guys, relationships, our faith, sin and the media. In each category, we identified the lie and replaced it with truth. We also spent time looking at the truth about sin.



During week four we took a break from the book material to talk through the pending transition into high school. Many ACS alumni girls from the past four years took the

time to share some words of wisdom about the academic, social and spiritual aspects of high school. The girls loved reading all the insightful thoughts from their peers who had already walked down the path they are heading towards.

We wrapped up our time together talking about being young women who are sold out for Jesus. The girls have lots of reading material that will encourage them to allow God to write their life story as they listen for His voice to guide them.

I praise God for each of them and for the work He did drawing us closer to Him and to each other this year.

# National Day of Prayer ... Thursday, May 5, 2011

2010-2011 School Year

The lives and the needs of people around the world were the focus for this year's National Day of Prayer at ACS.

The day began with a short chapel on the power of prayer. We heard about some of the needs and prayer requests from Guatemala as Erin Van Oordt, a missionary there, shared some of her experiences.

Students then spent time visiting different prayer stations covering needs for housing, food, medicine, clean water, and peace in areas of conflict.

The students also expe-

rienced different ways to pray. There were opportunities for corporate prayer, to pray with a friend, pray with a pencil, spontaneous "popcorn" prayers, and group spoken prayers.

Each station presented a unique and powerful way to bring offerings of thanks and intercession before our God.

Students then ate a humble lunch which would be considered a typical meal in much of the world. The simple meal of rice, beans, and tortilla was a tangible way for students to relate to their brothers and sisters around the

world, and to reflect with gratitude on the blessings which they have been given.

The meal was served in each classroom, with teachers and students taking the time to discuss the hope and compassion we have as the body of Christ and the privilege it is to pray for one another.

~Peg Driesenga

I will say of the Lord,  
He is my refuge and my  
fortress, my God, in  
whom I trust.

Psalm 91:2

## 8th Grade Boys Bible Study ... by Rob Gemmen

Dan TeBos and myself have again led the eighth grade boys in a short Bible study this year. As was the case last year, I think I benefited more than they did. It never ceases to amaze me how God works in us when we study His Word. We met with the boys during lunch on Tuesdays and sometimes had to talk with our mouth full (sorry Mom)!

We started the study with the topic of truth and a look at the Gospels of 1st, 2nd and 3rd John. We learned what God says Truth is in His Word and how we need to be able to identify and respond to it

when we see it. We had some great discussions and I think the boys enjoyed the process.

We moved onto the next topic learning about lies. It was an easy transition because these same passages also teach us about this subject. I think we all learned a little about how the deceiver works so well in this world. I feel the contrast between these two topics made them both a little easier to understand.

Our next topic was prayer. I believe this is one thing that many (even adults) struggle to really understand. We discussed the Lord's Prayer

as our example of how to pray and looked at how we can shape our own prayers to be God-honoring. We also discussed the amazing power and privilege of prayer. It still overwhelms me that I can approach our most high God in prayer ... and He listens and responds.

I want to thank the boys, their parents and the school for this wonderful opportunity to share and learn with the eighth graders again this year! Dan and I are really grateful for this time!

All for HIS glory!

### Editor's Note ...

This newsletter is just a small glimpse of what God is doing day to day at ACS. I see Him being exalted:

- in the worship that happens at chapels.
- in the teachers love for the students and in their explanation of each new thing.
- in the scripture that is spoken and memorized.
- in the truth that is built into the curriculum.
- in the small hands that reach out to their neighbor to pray.
- in the way students grow and define their faith.

As a committee we give thanks that God faithfully continues to build upon what is already here.

Cindy Driesenga  
ACS Parent  
Chair, Spiritual Emphasis

## Middle School Retreat ... by Rebeka Mesbergen

What is peace? Why is there such a lack of peace? How do we gain peace? What does it mean to be a peacemaker? These were some of the questions the middle school students wrestled with at their annual Spiritual Emphasis Retreat. The retreat took place on December 9 and 10 at The Dock, a youth ministry center in Wyoming, MI. In keeping with the school theme for that month, Growing in Peace, the speaker, Pastor Wayne Ondersma, director of The Dock, also focused on peace as he led the students through Scripture, prayer, and conversation.



The first session focused on figuring out what peace is. Wayne gave three definitions. First, peace is confirmation of an agreement; it is absolute knowledge that something is going to happen. Second, peace is freedom—freedom from ourselves and our constant desire to sin. Third, peace is harmony of our souls, inner confidence and joy that can't be changed by circumstances. Wayne explained that God desires to bring us all three kinds of peace, in order that we may then bring peace to those around us.

Session two helped the middle schoolers think through why there is such a lack of peace, both in the world in general and in their own souls and even at Allendale Christian middle school. Together we brainstormed a list of reasons that people, including us, treat others in ways that do not promote peace. We discovered that underneath it all, we are looking for peace in the wrong places. God created us with a hole inside that can only be filled by Him; when we seek to fill it in other ways and with other things, we are not truly at peace, and then we do not live peacefully with others either. Wayne helped us see that we need to face our sin and seek Jesus, the only way to true peace! Only when we accept Jesus into our hearts do we have His peace and are we able to live it out.



In the third session we learned what it means to be peacemakers. The foundation of peacemakers is that they stand on truth. Wayne defined truth as something we can stand on and test out and it will hold us up rather than harm us or bring us down. When we follow Jesus, it isn't always easy or pretty, but we need to pass the peace on to others by standing on His Truth. We were reminded that in John 8, Jesus tells us that we will know the truth and the truth will set us free! Students were challenged to consider how they might actually be peacemakers among each other at ACS.



Our final session was different than the first three. We took what we learned and put it to the test. Students had the opportunity to go out into the neighborhoods surrounding The Dock and pass the peace to the people there! Earlier in the week, students had baked cookies and written notes to go with them. During our final afternoon, they went out in groups of 5 to 7 with an adult and delivered the homemade baked goods and the personal notes to the people living in the neighborhoods. Each student knocked on a door and explained who they were, what they were doing, and why and then gave their plate of cookies to the neighbor. It was awesome to see God at work as we passed His peace to the people He wanted us to meet!

God was truly present at our retreat—through Wayne and the message he brought us from God's Word, during our small group sessions, during our times of fellowship over food and playing games, during our times of singing and prayer, and as we passed His peace to the neighbors! The middle school students learned a lot about finding their peace in Jesus and living in peace with others. We continue to strive to make Allendale Christian middle school a place of peace for everyone!

