

THE

COLLECTIVE

Christ The King Anacortes
Quarterly Issue No. 5
July - Sept. 2025

Worship
Community
Story



Contents

Editor's Commentary
Ladies, You're Invited!
Summer Fun Days!
Praying Through the Psalms
John Van Deusen Presents...
Photos from Summer 2025
Community Stories Pt. 1
Vancouver Beyond 2025
Can You Find Ben?
Thanks And Contributions



Information about upcoming events can be found on the back cover!

Welcome!

Whether this is your first time reading our publication or you've been attending CTK for years, there's something for everyone within these pages.

But if you are new, here's a little bit of context to our church:

Christ The King is a community of disciples seeking to love Jesus, become like Him, and do what He did. Together on Sunday mornings and in small community groups throughout the week, we set the table where individuals can encounter Jesus. In everything, we desire to glorify God as we seek to be Entirely His, being formed by His Spirit into people of love for the sake of others. Everyone is welcome to the table.

If this sounds interesting to you, we encourage you to keep reading! The stories, thoughts, and information within these pages will give you greater context to our beliefs.

If you'd like to inquire more about our church, we encourage you to visit us online at www.ctkanacortes.com or visit us in person on Sunday.

Where: 916 8th St
Anacortes, WA
When: Sundays
9 & 10:45 AM



Editor's Commentary

In all honesty, Washington Park is not my favorite place on Fidalgo Island. Sure, it's pretty, and the sunsets there are nice, and you might be able to see a whale or two if you look close enough, but having been born and raised here, I think the appeal wears off pretty quickly.

WAPA (as it is affectionately known among my friends) is just another park; another big open space for tourists to come and gawk at the beauty of our island. Don't get me wrong, I do think it's beautiful, but the beauty definitely wears off when there are 300 people on the shoreline grilling burgers and dogs, letting their kids run around and scream their lungs out at each other, and throwing around Frisbees that may or may not accidentally hit you in the head when you aren't looking. When I just want to read a book in silence, it's not the first spot that comes to mind.

But what if those 300 people are there worshiping Christ? What if they get to celebrate the joy of being reborn through the waters of baptism in the frigid Salish Sea?

I guess you could say I'm biased, but the one time of year when I do truly enjoy Washington Park is, of course, during our annual Church BBQ and Baptism Celebration. There's a multitude of reasons why, but I'd say the most prominent is the fact that we as a church can finally come together as one. There's no need for two services in an already cramped building; instead, we can congregate together in open nature and share a meal among ourselves, just as Jesus and the disciples did 2,000 years

ago. Although, It's too bad Jesus wasn't around to share a hot dog and potato salad with his friends.

I'd hazard to say that this issue of our Collective is extremely community-centric. Throughout these pages, you'll see plenty of photos from our WAPA service, along with a multitude of stories from the people who were there: real members of our Church community who have a story to share with you all.

As we move into the latter months of the year, as the days grow shorter and the sunlight disappears, we want to remind you all that arguably, the most important facet of your relationship with Christ is sharing said relationship in community: surrounding yourself with other like minds to share in your pain, your joy, your grief, and your emotions. As you read through these pages, we hope these stories resonate with you in some way, and we hope they allow you to share your own story with others. But whatever the case may be, we want you to know that your story is important, no matter who you share it with.

- *Jacob Hoxie*



Ladies, You're Invited!

As I sit outside on this beautiful sunny day, I feel it is time to share about the Women's Bible Study at our church! Now, I'm not a writer, so bear with me as I take you on a journey of why I love gathering with women to study the Word and build community together.

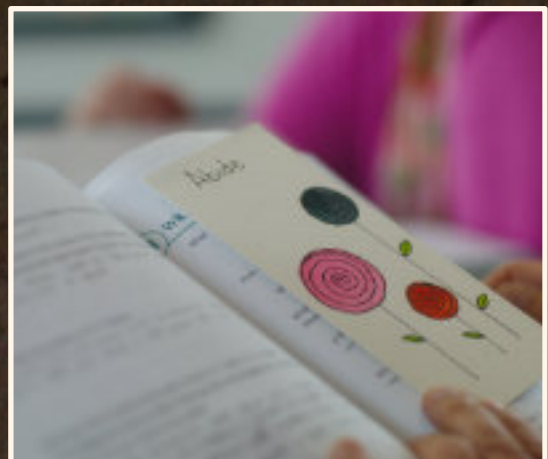
Twenty-six years ago, I was going through a dark season in my life. I was 25 years old and newly separated from my husband, who had left me and had left the church. Trying to climb out of this pit, I attempted to figure out what was next and what I was to do. Some of the women at my church in Woodinville knew I was going through a difficult time, so they invited me to the women's bible study. Hesitantly, I agreed.

One evening, I nervously showed up to a house with cars parked all over the place in its wide gravel driveway. When I walked in, there before me were approximately 30 women from ages 25 to 80 (me being the 25-year-old). I only knew several of the ladies, but they all welcomed me in with love and care. They were gentle and just wanted me to be present. Over the next few weeks, I continued attending, and as we studied the Word, God showed me how His Word could speak to me. It was all coming alive. During this time, one of the ladies invited me to live with her for six months rent-free to get back on my feet, as she was also going through a divorce.

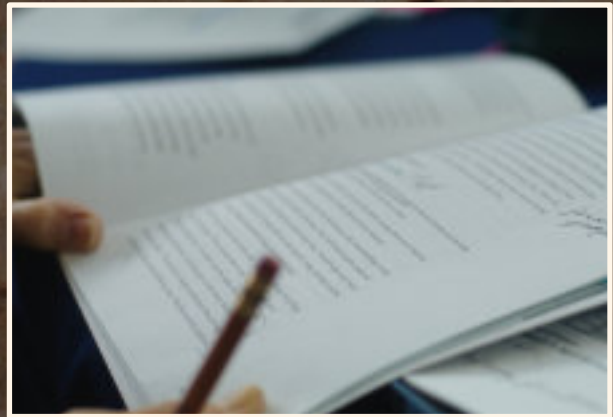
I continued receiving blessings as these ladies shared prayers and words of encouragement with me. Each Tuesday night, they would pray over me. Some of them would speak a word over me. Our leader even gave me a word that she felt I needed to pray about, considering my situation. It was the word I needed in order to move forward and to trust what God was doing in me and in my life.

My marriage ended, all while God held and restored me through the work of His Spirit, His servants, and His Word. Psalm 40 became my life scripture for this season. God lifted me out of the pit, out of the miry clay, He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth: a hymn of praise to our God.

Fast-forward five years later. I'm in Anacortes, married to Aaron — a man God had prepared for me — and now, with our firstborn, Isabel. I decided once again to join a new Bible study, this time at CTK; once again, a multi-generational group of ladies and I were going to do a Beth Moore study. The first morning, we were asked to go around introducing ourselves and share why we decided to join.



I responded, saying I wanted to know how to raise our daughter in the church because I did not grow up in a Christian home. Since that season, and over many Navy moves (yes, Aaron was in the Navy), I would continue to seek community in a women's Bible study. Studying Scripture was how I grew in my relationship with the Lord; to know Him better and build friendships with women who would encourage me and who I could also encourage. I have grown to love, love, love being in God's Word, learning from each other, sharing life, and praying with each other. God uses this time that we gather to speak truth, to help us remember our stories, to recall what He has done for us, to show what He is doing in us, and to exhibit how we can love those around us.



This fall, we are studying Luke in the Land by Kristi McLelland, starting October 7th for just seven weeks. It's not too late to join! Our group meets on Tuesdays, in the morning and also in the evening, in our sanctuary.



So why am I sharing this with you? This is just one story, one person's experience of being in a Bible study. I want to encourage women of all ages to join a Bible Study if you are not already in one. Pray about joining us on Tuesdays. The Tuesday Women's Bible Study is a great way to read the Word, ponder questions, and seek wisdom in the written Word as we find community and encouragement with each other.

- Gail Tabor

Today, as I lead with my friend Linda, I love the connection that is being made with all the women: friendships growing, women caring and walking alongside each other, and digging deep into the word. We've done studies on Gratitude, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John, Discerning the Voice of God, the Sermon on the Mount, and this year, we spent 20 weeks in Revelation. Revelation is a book I avoided, but now I can say I LOVE the book of Revelation. We came to see it as an encouragement that Jesus was and is victorious! God has a new heaven and earth, the new creation, and we are waiting for Jesus to come and deliver us into the new.



Summer Fun Days!

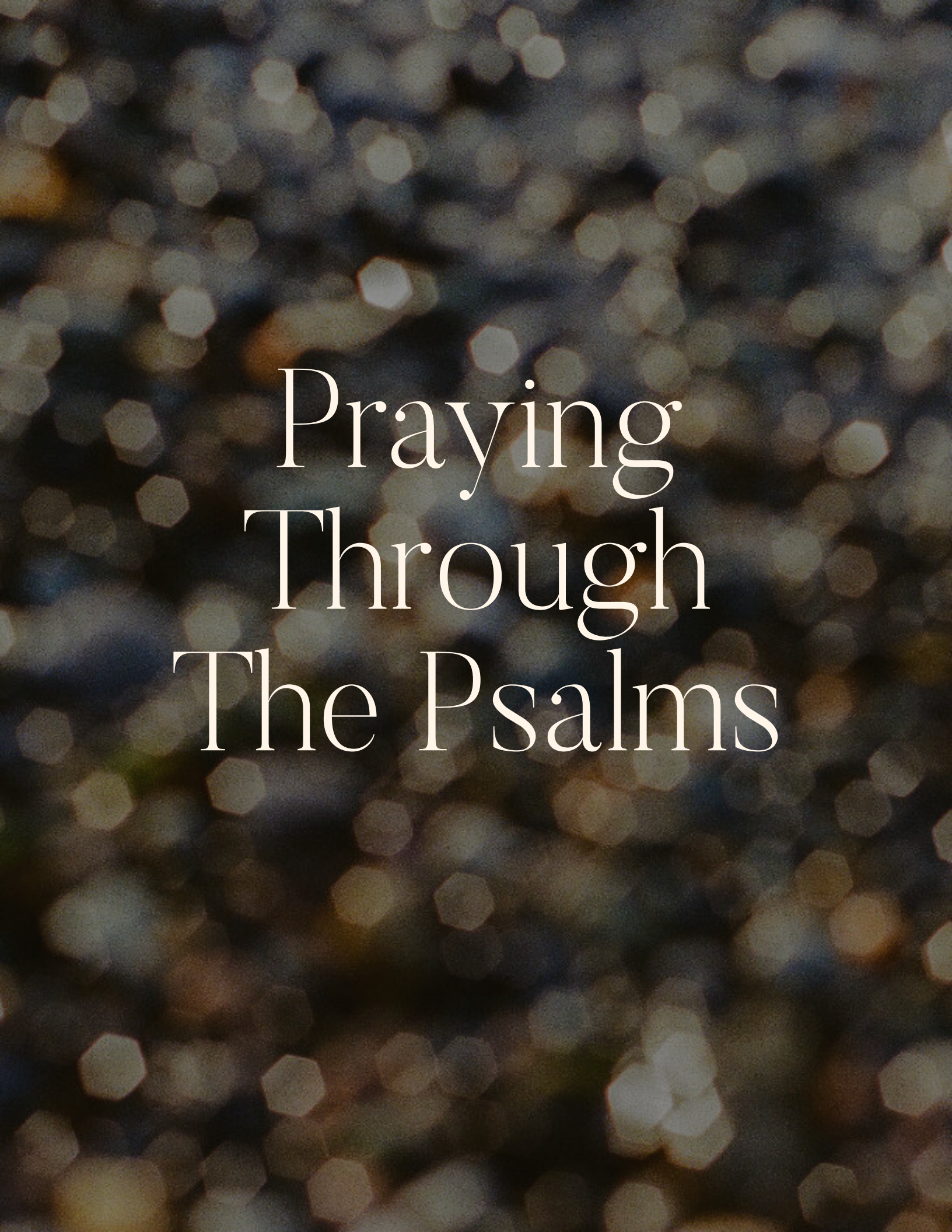
Our fabulous King's Kids and their friends got to enjoy three sensational days this past July at Summer Fun Days! Summer Fun Days is Christ the King's unique version of Vacation Bible School: we unplug, pare back, and tuck in. We learned about how Jesus is our PEACE even when life feels chaotic. The location, Wisteria Gardens, could not be more dreamy. It is beautiful, quiet, spacious, AND has cows and chickens! 60 kids and 30 adult/teen helpers got to enjoy each other's company, spending time learning about Jesus and His love for us, creating crafts, eating snacks, playing games, and entertaining themselves with visits from a fire truck, a juggler, and an ice cream truck. Put it on your calendar for next year!

- Jennie Kind

What A Fun Summer!





The background of the image is a dark, textured surface covered with numerous out-of-focus light spots, creating a bokeh effect. These spots vary in size and brightness, with some appearing as sharp, bright white or yellow circles and others as softer, more diffused glows. The overall color palette is dark, with deep blues, greys, and blacks, punctuated by the warm, golden-yellow and white highlights of the bokeh.

Praying Through The Psalms

Children with shiny new backpacks, crisp autumn air, tree branches laden with apples and pears, school buses, and golden leaves all signal a change of seasons. It seems every September our family adjusts (sometimes painfully) to early morning wake-ups, packing lunches and snacks, and constantly checking the clock to make sure we are on time. No more sleeping in, spontaneous trips to the park, or playing in the pool (whose one-foot depth of water still brings so much joy). And as we all adjust to our new schedule, new classroom, and a new season, this change seems to be a very familiar one, where some of the same feelings rise to the surface year after year. Amidst the excitement, worry, and joys, there always seems to be a deeper feeling that I have struggled to define. Over the years, I have felt the word “bittersweet” seems to capture my heart, as I love seeing my children grow and become who God has created them to be, but yet, deep down, I want to just hold onto this moment and for time to stop moving. I often look up something C.S. Lewis wrote in a letter to his friend, Sheldon Vanauken, to bring me comfort. He writes:

“If we complain of time and take such joy in the seemingly timeless moment, what does that suggest? It suggests that we have not always been or will not always be purely temporal creatures. It suggests that we were created for eternity. Not only are we harried by time, we seem unable, despite a thousand generations, even to get used to it. We are always amazed by it- how fast it goes, how slowly it goes, how much of it is gone. Where, we cry, has the time gone? We aren't adapted to it, not at home in it. If that is so, it may appear as a proof, or at least a powerful suggestion, that eternity exists and is our home.”

- C.S. Lewis

I feel Ben and I often ask ourselves similar questions in the fall: "It seems like it has only been a few months since we were picking pumpkins in the valley," or "Didn't we just celebrate Thanksgiving?" or "It feels like we just put the Christmas decorations away last week!" (which may actually be true). I have felt comfort in C.S. Lewis' words that I am made for eternity, and that it's ok to feel bittersweet about the passing of time. I have also felt called to respond by continually being present each day and to savor each moment by soaking it up and giving thanks for it.

Recently, I have also found great consolation in reading the Psalms. For years, I have felt so intimidated by the Psalms, not knowing where to begin or how to read them prayerfully. And for years, I have also had a book on my shelf about the Psalms by Eugene Peterson, entitled "Answering God: The Psalms as a Tool for Prayer". This summer, I felt like it was time to pick it up and begin reading. In this book, Eugene Peterson has offered me a gentle guide on how to read the Psalms and to use their words as a way to pray. And while I am only ankle deep in reading the Psalms, they have seemed to give voice to what my heart is feeling, and have also brought me to the here and now. They have given me space to express big feelings, yet to not remain there, and instead turn to God to ground me and remind me of the good work He is doing in me and around me. In his book, Eugene Peterson writes:

"If we wish to develop in the life of faith, to mature in our humanity, and to glorify God with our entire heart, mind, soul, and strength, the Psalms are necessary. We cannot bypass the Psalms. They are God's gift to train us in prayer that is comprehensive (not patched together from emotional fragments scattered around that we chance upon) and honest

(not a series of more or less sincere verbal poses that we think might please our Lord). The Psalms are necessary because they are prayer masters."

The Psalms are teaching me to glorify God fully with my whole being. Their words are honest and vulnerable, yet rooted in who God is and how, amidst change and the passing of time, He remains the same. He exists outside of time. And for this, I find great comfort. As I slowly read through the Psalms, I want to invite you as well to read them with me, and may they speak the words of your heart as you listen and respond to God. Here is Psalm 8 from The Message.

- Candace Boatright



God, brilliant Lord,
yours is a household name.

Nursing infants gurgle choruses about you;
toddlers shout the songs
That drown out enemy talk,
and silence atheist babble.

I look up at your macro-skies, dark and enormous,
your handmade sky-jewelry,
Moon and stars mounted in their settings.
Then I look at my micro-self and wonder,
Why do you bother with us?
Why take a second look our way?

Yet we've so narrowly missed being gods,
bright with Eden's dawn light.
You put us in charge of your handcrafted world,
repeated to us your Genesis-charge,
Made us stewards of sheep and cattle,
even animals out in the wild,
Birds flying and fish swimming,
whales singing in the ocean deeps.

God, brilliant Lord,
your name echoes around the world.

Psalm 8:1-9, MSG

Are you longing to be known, cared for, prayed over, and uniquely transformed by the Spirit? Do you fear it? Are you isolated?

According to a 2018 Ipsos poll, 54% of Americans say no one knows them well.

So how do we solve this problem? We cannot fix this by merely attending church; our deepest growth occurs in smaller circles.

We need to be intentional about actively building relationships. This doesn't just happen overnight: It takes effort. We are called to be deliberate about actively building relationships, having a posture of surrender to the Spirit so that we may experience emotional and spiritual health. When loss, conflict, or hardship arise, we can show the world we can resolve, heal, and remain together.

But how do we start? Yes, you will have to sacrifice your fears, insecurities, and time. But, if I may graciously share, it's far more worth it to disrupt those feelings for the fruit that you will experience.

The following pages contain thoughts from our own brothers and sisters, leaders, and members of various community groups who took a vulnerable step to answer the question, "How does community impact you?" We hope you enjoy this insight into the idea of community at CTK.

- Mary McDonnell

Community Stories Pt. 1

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:17

What is community? It is Jesus in skin. It is bringing Jesus into everyday life. It is letting Him love others through me. It is listening, talking, hands-on sharing, helping, caring, and growing together. It is cooking soup when someone is sick. It is helping someone pack. It is praying. It is fixing someone's heater. It is laughing and joking. It is having lunch together. It is providing transportation. It is child care. It is celebrating. It is being there in sorrow. Community is living life together with Jesus in the center.

- Dorothy Moehl



In a word, “community” means life to me. So, what do I mean by “life”? Here are a few things that my “abundant life” contains: identity (I know who God made me to be), purpose (I know what He put me here to do), peace in knowing and doing that, love (both received and expressed), joy, compassion, and the power to become what I’m not yet. I did not enter adulthood possessing those things, but found them all in the context of caring communities within the Body of Christ, which is “The Church.”

All right, so what do I mean by a “caring community”? A caring community is one that gets me. Its members share my struggles and experience, see where I am, and love me anyway. When I was raising teens, my caring community either was raising, preparing to raise, or had successfully raised teens themselves. When I was widowed, my caring community either had been widowed or was trained and experienced in caring for the widowed. They could all see me and loved me anyway. Because I’m a man, I find much of my caring community among other men. Because I’m a musician, I find much of it among other musicians. Because I’m a leader... I’m sure you see the point.

Finally, how have I gleaned what God has for me in these caring communities? First, I show up. Unless I'm sick or out of town, I attend and have prepared myself for attendance by working on whatever the group is working on. Second, I review all gatherings with God. We talk over the salient points of the gathering, and He impresses me with to-dos that move me forward on my life path with Him. Finally, I do my best to "pass the peace." I attempt to obey God's command in 2 Corinthians 1:4 – "...comfort others... with the same comfort God has given me."

- Bruce McLeod

Community is like coaxing a skittish squirrel out of the forest! That's me joining community! I knew this prompt from Mary McDonnell was not random— God was up to something! Being part of community has not been a casual or organic occurrence for me.



I've completed draft after draft, parroting definitions of community, and each time feeling satisfied — Until I heard God say: "Delete. That's not it!" This has been difficult, and also a revealing gift. Thanks for this safe space to share.

A little about me: I was married for 36 years, and we worked side-by-side 30 of those years – most in an Alaskan village of 250. We were best friends, seldom spending time with other people, and avoiding gatherings. Anacortes was a big adjustment: a move to "The City!" After Doug died, I turned to the solace of the forest, not to the company of people. God met me there!

God is patient — He moves on His timetable, not mine — and I've felt Him wanting more from me. I've been an anxious observer as His plans unfold — COMMUNITY! [Cue my rant] "But God, You know me! You know that's NOT ME! Please, Jesus, I just need You! You and me, that is enough!" I hear God say: "My child, I DO know you! I want more for you!" This piece has been wrestled and prayed onto the page; this was His assignment all along! God has been waiting for me to come to Him: to confess honestly my anxiousness about community, to turn inward, to listen, and to submit. To sit with Jesus in His vision of me in community!

Some are thinking, "Jan is not shy! She's friendly, outgoing, and quick to give hugs!" Let me ask you this: how many of us have an outside shell we present to others, while we are trying to get it right with God? I've watched Him gently use what He knows about me to draw me closer into community. He knows my husband hugged me every day for the 13,140 days we were together. Hugs! God uses hugs! Each hug I receive is like a stolen moment in the arms of Jesus, a gift from His community.

In faith, I have whispered the scary prayer: "Your will be done, Lord!" Keeping my promise, I am attending Bible Studies, Called to Make, Worship Nights — I even joined a Community Group!

Take it from this "skittish forest squirrel": In community, there is room for "discomfort," there is grace, there is reward, and there is the richness of obedience. I'm still drawn to places where there are crowds of trees while I continue in prayer as I settle into my place in community with my human brothers and sisters. Thanks, CTK!

- Jan Latta

These are just a few of the many thoughts of members in our CTK community. Stay tuned for part two of this article in our next Collective issue, set to release in January 2026.



John Van Deusen and Anotherland Records present

As Long As I Am In The Tent of My Body I Will Make A Joyful Noise Pt.1



Out now wherever you listen to music.

"This album demonstrates the sort of lyrical
depth and musical creativity that gives me
hope for the future of Christian music."

- The Gospel Coalition

Scan the QR code
on the right to
stream the album
on Spotify!





Photos from our 2025 Washington Park
BBQ and Baptism Celebration

Vancouver Beyond 2025

This past August, a team of nine from our youth ministry traveled to Vancouver, BC, joining with Youth With A Mission to learn, serve, and experience God at work in an urban ministry setting. These are their stories.

I wasn't really sure who would end up on this trip, but watching how God brought these students together as a team and a community was really special. We learned a lot, went through some challenging situations, and had a lot of fun together. We walked among Canada's poorest and richest postal codes on the same day. We served the city's unhoused and less fortunate. We learned about the world's human trafficking issues and how they impact individuals, global culture, and the city of Vancouver. We experienced different cultures and religions. Each student brought something unique and contributed to the team. I think we each experienced God's presence, learning how the Holy Spirit is active, and how we can participate in the work He is doing through relationships, prayer, and service. Stay tuned for info on Vancouver Beyond 2026!

- Kevin Foss

"My main takeaway was that a lot of the people who nobody really talks to, who might seem weird or out of place or not someone you want to talk to, mostly just want someone to listen to them and have a chance to tell their story."

- Riley Foss

Community Formation Service

How do we leave our comfort zone?

"My takeaway is that it's important to look up and pay attention to the world. Say hi to someone, say good morning to people on the street. It might make their day. It's important to be alive instead of soullessly going where you need to go."

- *Ethan Foss*

"Thursday morning, we were working at the Salvation Army soup kitchen. I was told not to prepare a lunch because we would be able to eat where we were serving. I still prepared a lunch anyway. I don't know why, but as I was spreading my mayo on my sandwich, I thought, 'Why am I preparing this? I'm going to eat there. This is just a waste of food.' I got to the Salvation Army and we started preparing sandwiches. Right at the end of lunch they were closing the gates, and putting stuff away. Thirty-seconds after they had put everything away, a guy walked up, saw the gate being closed, and looked completely beaten down. This was just another loss in his many strings of losses throughout his day. I told him sorry and walked away, but it immediately clicked: I thought about my sack lunch. I turned around and said, 'Hey, I have a lunch I didn't eat.' I grabbed it from my backpack, gave it to him, and I had the pleasure of talking with him for about 15 minutes. In the span of those 15 minutes, I probably said about 15 words. He just needed someone to talk to about what he was experiencing. He had been battling addiction to drugs his whole life and told me he had been a year sober, how hard it is to stay sober in that part of town, and how hard it is for him to be bouncing between these transitional homes. I was able to point him to the staff because they had told me about how they have case managers on site to find single residency housing and jobs. He had been looking for a case manager for months but had been unable to find one. When I told him, his face lit up. It was just a really cool experience to see God work through this 'waste of food.'"

- *Zach Vanderschuur*

Can You Find Ben?

As many of you know, our lead pastor, Ben, is currently on sabbatical. As Ben takes this time to rest and recuperate, can you try and find him in this painting of The Wedding at Cana? Hint: He is wearing glasses.



Don't know what Ben looks like? Scan this QR code to see the photo of him currently hiding in this painting.





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Mike Pearia

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Kyle Rash

Council Member

We hope you enjoyed this issue of The Collective. We here at Christ the King love the opportunity to highlight how God is working in the lives of those we love, and we hope you do as well!

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Thank You For Reading!

Do you or someone you know have a story you would like to share? Would you like to be highlighted in our next issue? Let us know! We would love to hear from you. Feel free to visit our website at www.ctkanacortes.com/connect to fill out a connection card or email jacob@ctkanacortes.com so that we can learn more about what you have to share.



If you haven't already, please subscribe to our mailing list via the QR code so that you automatically receive a digital copy of this publication when it's released each quarter. Our next issue will be published in January 2026.



Upcoming Events

November

Worship Night 19th
6:30 PM | CTK Building

An evening of intimate worship, fellowship, and prayerful practice. **Please note this date and time is specifically subject to change.**

King's Kids Advent Breakfast 22nd
9 AM | CTK Building

Kids and families, come join us for a morning breakfast and holiday craft festivities to kick off the Advent season!

Thanksgiving Dinner 27th
2 PM | The Salvation Army

Join us as we serve the less fortunate in our community by hosting a Thanksgiving meal at the Salvation Army! Contact Gail at office@ctkanacortes.com if you would like to volunteer to serve at this event!

There's always something happening here at CTK, and we want you to be a part of it! If you have any questions or would like to RSVP for any of the events listed here, please visit www.ctkanacortes.com.

Please note all dates and times are subject to change. Online RSVP may not currently be available for some events, but will be updated in a timely fashion.

October

7th Women's Bible Study
9 AM or
6:30 PM | CTK Building

Ladies, join us for a seven-week study through Luke and the Land by Kristi McLelland. It's not too late to be a part of it! Contact office@ctkanacortes.com or talk to Gail if you'd like to join.

31st Trunk-Or-Treat
4 PM | CTK Building

Join us as we serve our community by handing out candy to trick-or-treaters this Halloween! All are welcome. Contact mary@ctkanacortes.com if you'd like to volunteer to serve candy!

December

6th Called to Make
10 AM | CTK Building

Ladies, join us for a morning of crafting, fellowship, a meal, and learning something new. Sign up online!

8th Leadership Gathering
5:30 PM | CTK Building

An evening of a meal, activities, and fellowship for all community group leaders or anyone interesting in starting a community group.

9th Ringing the Bell
10 AM | The Market or Safeway

Join us as we volunteer to ring the Salvation Army bell to raise money for the less fortunate in our community! Contact Gail at office@ctkanacortes.com to sign up!

24th Christmas Eve Services
5 & 6:30 PM | CTK Building