

JAN—MAR 2020

# ALBERT CITY E-FREE CHURCH

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## STRENGTH IN WAITING: PASTOR JESSE

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How fast does a year go by?

A year ago today I was eagerly waiting to hear back from ACEFC after I had sent my application in. Little did I know that ACEFC was in the midst of “snow-mageddon 2019” and would not have church for 4 weeks consecutively due to the snow and the All-Church Retreat. So, I had to learn a little more patience. Isn’t it funny how when we are waiting it seems so long? Then we look back and say things like, “hasn’t the year gone by so fast?” We often forget that in that waiting we grumbled, complained, and even struggled with faith at times. In reality, I have learned that God does His best work in the waiting period. He molds us and makes us, He teaches us and guides us, He causes us to cry out to Him and rely upon His timing and His plan. When we recognize His sovereignty and humbly lay our lives before Him, that is when He truly goes to work in us. If you find yourself waiting, and you will, recognize that it is God’s intention for you to wait because He has work to do on you yet in order to prepare you for what is coming around the next corner. Be encouraged in waiting because God is giving you the strength and wisdom to handle what is next in life.

*The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.*

-Lamentations 3:25

## 2020 ANNUAL MEETING RECAP: PASTOR JESSE

The 2020 annual meeting took place on January 26. If you were not able to attend, you should have a copy of the annual report in your mail box. I would like to congratulate our new officers for 2020 and to say “thank you” to those who will be stepping down from office. It is exciting that we voted in 5 new members to the congregation. Two of the bigger things that we have taking place this year will be the building project and the board re-structuring. It has been a blessing to see unity within the church up to this point and my prayer is that it will continue on through both of these major projects. Bids for the building project should be back soon, possibly even before this letter goes out. The building committee will be posting information as it comes out. A committee has already been selected to look into the board re-structuring process as well. Please pray for those involved with this. Church government can get daunting at times but it is necessary in order for us to be accountable as a whole. The main goal in re-structuring is so that those who do ministry can have the freedom to do ministry without hindrance and to allow the elders to focus more on the spiritual health of the church. It is a much needed change for this season of our fellowship. If you have any questions about the upcoming projects or the annual meeting in general, please feel free to reach out to myself, the board chairman, or call the office and Karen will steer you in the right direction. Be excited for 2020 and what God is going to do!

## GETTING TO KNOW THE PASTOR'S WIFE: NICHOLE EVANS

Hi everyone! I thought it would be a great idea to share some tidbits about myself so you can "get to know" me a little better. I love being outdoors as much as possible with my family. In fact, once upon a time I tried to convince my husband to live in an RV with our kids and travel to see the great outdoors all over America. He didn't bite off (which was probably wise of him). I love being active and hate being still. You might notice if you look that when I'm sitting I'm probably fidgeting or wiggling my leg. I love adventures and am the person who would go on a last minute trip on a whim. I get this from my grandfather who was the ultimate adventurer and always told us to not be afraid to try new things and live life to the fullest. I was VERY close to him so everything he said impacted me greatly. I have been to 44 states and it's my goal to get to all of them within the next ten years.

As I'm sure most of you have figured out, I'm NOT an extrovert! You might not see me being super outgoing but I do love talking to people and getting to know them better, it just might take me a bit to break the ice. If you are an extrovert and you come up to me, even better!!

Those are a few things about myself and now we have some conversation starters in case you are not an outgoing conversation starter like me.

## ELDER REPORT: JOEL EHLERS—ELDER CHAIRMAN

For years in our church, it has been practice for the elder team to follow Christ's model in the gospels to withdraw to a quiet place to pray. Your elder team again took an opportunity the first weekend in February to do so. We prayed and asked God to continue to cast vision before us in the coming year for the various ministries in our church and the many volunteers required to serve a growing church. The moments spent together sharing deeply from our hearts and praying for one another were rich and significant. We were moved and humbled by the loads we often carry solo through our lives. A special strain of joy is found leaning on one another in our insecurities, the uncertainty of life, and facing fears as we recognize our mortality and physical frailties. It's my hope that this New Testament principle of praying for one another is one that we all, as a body, embrace fully this year and beyond.

Our church body is blessed that there are many activities happening throughout any given week or month. This takes many volunteers and hours of sacrifice from people often already tending to busy workplaces, farms, & family schedules. We pray that you find a depth of joy, even in the mundane and thanklessness of various tasks required to keep the so-called wheels of ministry in motion. What an encouragement you are to our body in your serving on committees, boards, music, sound, children's ministries, child-care, running meals, visiting the sick, nursing home, cleaning, moving snow, administration, MomStrong, and many others.

Paul says it best in 1 Cor. 15:58: *Beloved, be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing your labor is not in vain.*

Please be encouraged by your work, your praying, your giving, & the instruction of God's Word. God's great redemptive story is unfolding before us, not just in your life, not just in Albert City, but in our world, even as we await our homegoing or His glorious appearing.

-Joel Ehlers

**GOING STRONG - ACA MOMSTRONG: EMILY BONIN**

It's hard to believe we are already halfway done with our first year as Albert City Area MomStrong! We have had 34 moms come so far from 12 different communities. As you know, this has been quite the year for babies as we have delivered meals and gifts to 14 moms since August!

We have had a good variety of meetings this year. Our most attended meetings have been our spa night, freezer meal class, self-defense class, and most recently was our advice panel night where the moms invited their husbands to come along. Some meetings that we are still looking forward to are on raising kind kids, Bible journaling, and our painting night with Katie!

As a leadership team, we continue to meet monthly. This gives us time to plan the details of our meetings and spend time praying together. We have also been reading through *Women of the Word* by Jen Wilkin. We are all so thankful for our church family and the support you continue to show us! It has been a year of change for us, but we are so excited about the future of this ministry!

*"We have had 34 moms come so far from 12 different communities. As you know, this has been quite the year for babies as we have delivered meals and gifts to 14 moms since August!"*

**MINISTRY HAPPENINGS: PASTOR JESSE**

What a winter we have had at ACEFC! I remember thinking in December, "Whoa, we are busy." Ignorantly I thought to myself that things would settle down after the holidays and we would find cruise control. Fortunately, ACEFC is excited about and eager to do ministry and we have stayed busy as a fellowship. As I mentioned at the annual meeting, the Christmas season was amazing. Whether it be the kids' Christmas program, the Christmas Eve service, the Sundays of Advent worship sets, or all of the stuff in between, I was pleased to see how we as a church faithfully delivered not only the gospel message, but the love of Christ that goes along with that message.

As we have plunged headfirst into 2020, we have had many ministries taking place. The men's series "33" has taken off and in the first two sessions alone we have seen over 40 men take part in the journey to Biblical manhood. As Joel mentioned, the elders have been digging into God's vision for this year and what that looks like, Emily reported on the success of the MomStrong group, the marriage seminar in February brought many couples together to grow their marriage stronger, and Adventure Club on Wednesday nights is still serving close to 80 people a night.

Upcoming events include the All-Church Retreat at Hidden Acres, the Sweetheart Banquet, and the Messiah in the Passover meal in March. Wherever you serve at ACEFC and whatever ministries you take part in, as a body I hope and pray that everything that we do is to glorify Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. I continue to say this but it is true, I am excited for 2020! We have seen an influx of new attendees as of late, some of which have decided that ACEFC is their home church. Continue to show love and support to all of our guests and those who you interact with day in and day out.

As Easter approaches, we are entering into the season of Lent. Lent is a season of reflecting upon Jesus Christ and His sacrifice. In doing so, it should cause us to reflect on our own lives and to repent of any sin that we have. There will be some special ministry opportunities during Lent in which you can participate that will place extra focus on Jesus Christ and less focus on ourselves.



**Evangelical Free Church**  
*To Know Christ and To Make Him Known*

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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#### PASTOR JESSE'S OFFICE HOURS

Sunday: Noon—4pm (appointment only)  
Monday: Sermon Prep (Emergencies only)  
Tuesday: 9am—5pm  
Wednesday: 9am—3pm & 6pm-8pm  
Thursday: 9am-1pm  
Friday & Saturday: Off  
*\*There can be flexibility as needed due to  
work schedules etc.*

#### FINDING BALANCE: PASTOR JESSE

One of the many blessings of pastoral ministry is that I get to be involved in many people's lives and hopefully be used to make a difference for Christ. This is what pastoring is all about. The flip-side to this is that I am involved in many people's lives and ministries and I tend to get overwhelmed with people reaching out to me. When I first became pastor at ACEFC, I gave my cell phone number out publicly. My intentions were good but I was ignorant about what this meant. Needless to say, being overwhelmed with communication has become an issue for me and it has affected my family. In order to find balance and to protect personal time, I will be changing my cell phone number. I will only be giving the new number out to church leadership and those involved in specific ministries. *Please do not take offense if you are not one who gets my new number.* I will still be available by calling the church phone number or via my email. *I do not want anybody to feel that I am removing myself from your life or from ministry, I just need to find balance, particularly in communication.*

My office hours have been posted in the bulletin and are listed above and I will be sticking to those fairly strictly. If there is an emergency and you need to get in contact with me you can call the church or you likely have one of the elders numbers who can reach me. Please make sure it is an actual emergency. Things that are not emergencies such as Bible questions, ministry questions, etc., please feel free to call the church and leave a message or email me and I will usually get back to you within a couple of days at most.

It is my pleasure to be your pastor and I want to be involved in all of your lives. Please be understanding that I am pulled in many directions and that I need to find balance between the ministry and my family. This is one way to help me find that balance that is much needed.

Thank you for understanding.

Pastor Jesse