

Abiding Savior News



United in Christ. Welcoming All.

January 2011

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, 801 Charlotte Highway, Fairview, NC

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Pastor's Column

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to announce the release of those taken prisoner; to give sight to the blind and liberty to those who are oppressed; to proclaim a year which is acceptable to the Lord." [Lk 4:18-19, *Bittleston*]

After the shepherds departed, after the Christ Child grew up to become a man, after his baptism and temptation, Jesus entered the synagogue and announced his "job description" to the gathered crowd. He quoted the words of the prophet Isaiah and then said that these words were going to be fulfilled in him.

I believe that Isaiah's words were not only Jesus' job description, they are our job description as well. We are called to bring good news for the poor and help those who feel like they're in bondage to experience the freedom Christ offers. We are called to help everyone we meet see the love of Jesus in us and be a voice in our community for those who are oppressed.

One of the reasons why many people have left Church is because they see it as a place of judgement and hypocrisy. They believe Christians are good at talking about love and mercy, but rarely put that love and mercy into

action. Thankfully, this is not the case at Abiding Savior. The hospitality we show to those who walk through our doors is heartfelt and genuine. We offer this same compassionate care in the community at large through our outreach efforts to the poor and marginalized. We are trying our best to embody the words of the prophet, but there is always a next step to take in our journey of faith.

Over the past three months you've heard from several of our members though a series of Temple Talks why the Reconciling in Christ [RIC] designation is important to them. Now it's my turn. With the RIC designation we have the opportunity to proclaim loud and clear what we are already doing as a church. It is not enough to say "All Are Welcome." Many churches have been adding this phrase to their publicity in recent years but few have taken the time to talk about how this would change their church if they really meant it.

The RIC designation means we take this phrase seriously and are committed to living it out in our church and in the community at large. It is the next logical step for us to take as a congregation. It will also be a way we can more effectively tell our story and attract others who have a similar vision of what Christ has called us to be as his Body. [*cont.*]

[con't] Working with the RIC Taskforce has been a joy for me. I've been surprised and inspired by the hard work and creativity of this group. They have done their homework and spent months doing research on other RIC congregations. Their work has resulted in the formation of a Welcome Statement which will be presented to the Church Council in January for their consideration and revisions. When the Council approves it, we will then share it with the congregation and provide an opportunity for us to talk about it together. If further revisions need to be made, we will make them with your help. Once we have the Welcome Statement in its final form, we will submit it to the congregation for a final vote probably in February or March.

It is an exciting time in the life of our church. Let's make 2012 the year we took a leap forward in faith and articulated a bold vision for mission and ministry at Abiding Savior.

Happy New Year!
Pastor Dave



Did you know we distributed 125 bags of homemade cookies to the homeless in December? Those who were at the Pritchard Park breakfast on Dec 11th said that some people were grinning from ear to ear as they received this special treat. Thanks to everyone who helped make this possible! It was truly a blessing to those whom we served.

Financial Secretary's Report

	Nov 2011
General Fund Giving:	6,460.00
Mortgage Giving:	<u>1,366.00</u>
Total	\$ 7,826.00

Monthly Budget Needed	\$ 9,044.00
Difference (short)	(\$1,218.00)

The month of November took in \$50.00 for Memorial. This designated amount was not listed in the above figures.

Toni Corkran, Financial Secretary

Parables of Jesus

Beginning Sunday, January 8, Pastor Dave will teach a class on the parables of Jesus. Pastor Dave has spent years working with these treasured texts and wants to share with you some of his favorite tools for unlocking the meanings found in these profound stories. We'll look at a number of parables found in the Bible plus we'll explore those found in the Gospel of Thomas as well.

This class is for both those who have never done Bible study before as well as those who've done it all their lives. There will be something for everyone! Join us for this informative and though-provoking class.

Welcome Table Dessert

Abiding Savior is in charge of the dessert for the Fairview Welcome Table on Thursday, January 5th. If you can lend a hand, please let Pastor Dave know. We need dessert for about 80-100 people.

Food and Film

On Sunday, January 15th, 12:15pm the RIC Taskforce will host a chili lunch along with the film "For the Bible Tells Me So." This film is a 2007 documentary that explores the intersection of religion and homosexuality in the United States. It includes the story of a Lutheran family and how this issue has impacted their lives and their faith. Hope you can join us.

A YEAR IN PICTURES: 2011 REVIEW

It was impossible to choose only 6!



We celebrated 25 years of ministry



Doing crafts at Fiesta Latina



Easter Sunday @ ASLC



ASLC Tent at Blue Ridge Pride



WNC Coat Drive



Palm Sunday Procession

