

Abiding Savior News



United in Christ. Welcoming All.

May 2013

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

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Pastor's Column

And could you keep your heart in wonder at the daily miracles of life, your pain would not seem less wondrous than your joy. —Kahlil Gibran

One of my favorite things about working as a chaplain at Mission is the view from my sleep room. Seven stories up and facing west, it offers a spectacular panoramic view of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Every once in a while I get the opportunity to watch a sunset from this vantage point and it is spectacular. Every morning, no matter how difficult the night had been, I am greeted by the eastern sun that lights up these mountains with radiant energy.

It's good for us to get out into creation every once in a while. In fact, it's something I need to do more often. Thanks to my dog Shiloh, I am forced to walk out in nature at least once a day and it is good for my soul. While Shiloh is sniffing everything in sight and marking his territory, my eyes drift to the small wonders of creation that are changing all around me.

In the spring, I love seeing the trillium sprout their graceful flowers and hear the robin's joyful tune that winter is over. In the summer, I love the vibrant greens of the mountains and the sound of the crickets at sunset. In fall, Asheville is at its best with the reds and yellows of

autumn leaves and the cool air blowing across my face. In the winter, I love the stark poplar trees pointing straight up toward heaven and the silence of snow.

In a world that is filled with bad news and tragedy, it's important that we maintain our sense of wonder. It protects our hearts from giving into despair and keeps us in touch with the child that lives in all of us. Being out in nature offer us the opportunity for a moment of solitude and contemplation. It invites us to witness the miracle of life in all its stages and sing a hymn of praise to God for the give of life.

If you're the kind of person, like me, who tends to spend most of their time indoors, its vital for us to "make a date" with nature. It is there that God reminds us that in spite of the darkness that exists in our world, beauty abounds if we only have eyes to see it.

So, take a joyful walk with your dog, if you have one. Plant some beautiful flowers in your yard. Take a drive along the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway. Go to the NC Arboretum or the WNC Nature Center. Plan a creek walk along the French Broad River. We are blessed with an abundance of beauty in Asheville. May the majesty of creation renew our spirits and fill our hearts with a sense of wonder.

Happy Trails, Pastor Dave

Treasurer's Report

| | Mar 2013 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| General Fund Giving: | \$11,659.77 |
| Designated | \$921.57 |
| Monthly Expenses | <u>9,060.79</u> |
| Net Income | +\$2,598.98 |

Note: March was a great month for ASLC in terms of giving. Thanks to everyone for your generous support!

Doris Wright, Treasurer

Habitat For Humanity

As of the end of March, we've collected \$445 toward our goal of \$500 for the Habitat House. This is fantastic. Thanks to everyone who contributed!

Heat Pump Reminder

Thanks to a generous donor last month, we now only owe \$370.50 on the balance of our new Heat Pumps. That's amazing considering we started at \$16,000. Let's see if we can bring this balance to zero in the next month.

LGBT Couples Retreat

Thanks to a grant from Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries, ASLC will host its first LGBT Couples Retreat on Saturday, May 11, 9:00am-4:30pm. This will be a time set aside for worship, Bible study and relationship building.

The retreat will be led by Pastor Dave and Stacey Jaudon who is a local pastoral counselor. The brochure for this event is available in the narthex and also on the web site.

Our goal is to host another day retreat in the fall and then an overnight retreat in 2014. We hope to develop a model for these kinds of events that can be exported to other places.



Spring Yard Sale

Hopefully you've brought all your items for ALCS's Yard Sale which will be Saturday, May 4th, 8:00am-12pm. If you still have items to donate, please contact Linda Butera, 225-7642 to arrange a time to drop them off at the church. We are going to use the funds we raise to repair the stream area and prayer garden that had always been a challenge in terms of drainage and erosion.

NEW AA Meeting @ ASLC

Abiding Savior will now be the host for an AA Group that will meet on Mondays and Thursdays at 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. This is the only AA Group that meets in Fairview and will be led by a Fairview resident who has over 30 years experience with AA Groups.

Other Groups that Meet at ASLC

Did you know that ASLC is host to both a Daisy Troop and a Suzuki Music Class? As a part of our service to the community the Daisy Troop, which is the junior version of the Girl Scouts, meets on Tuesday afternoons at 4:00pm. The Suzuki Class give a monthly concert in our sanctuary on the first Friday of each month.



ASLC's Resurrection Cross, Easter Morning

Printer Cartridge Recycling

If you don't already recycle your printer cartridges, please drop them off in the church office. We get \$2 from Staples for every cartridge we return which is used to purchase office supplies. Thanks!

Pritchard Park Breakfast

Sun, May 12th is ASLC's day for serving Breakfast at Pritchard Park. We leave the church at 8:30pm. Breakfast is served at the park at 9:00am. Set-up for the breakfast is the day before May 11th, 10:00am. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for those who would like to donate food items or volunteer to serve. Thank you!

Pastor Dave at Conference

Pastor Dave will be attending the Festival of Homiletics in Nashville, TN from May 13-20. In case of emergencies you can reach him on his cell phone 505-5229 or contact Sandi Rice, pastor of New Creation, at 216-9547.

Spring Yard Work and Painting

It's that time of year again. We need volunteers who are willing to do weeding and yard maintenance. We also need someone who can volunteer to pain the window frames on the Fellowship Hall. We'll supply the paint and other supplies. Talk to Pastor Dave is you are willing to give of your time to help our church look its very best.

Relay For Life?

Outreach has learned that the Relay For Life event that we've been attending at Reynolds High School is not going to happen this year. There is one big event in the fall at UNCA. Let's hope it will come back in 2014.

"It's a general rule that if a person who has property and belongings doesn't take the need of a neighbor to heart, then that person has no love." —Martin Luther, *Faith Alone: A Daily Devotional*



Creation altar Earth Day Sunday 2013.

