

Abiding Savior News



United in Christ. Welcoming All.

May 2012

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

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Pastor's Column

"I love to tell the story of Jesus and his love." Like many of you, I find great inspiration in the worship songs of the church. I've never been great at memorizing words by themselves, but if you attach a melody to them I'm good to go. I've always said that if they had only set my Physical Chemistry book to music while I was in college, I would have passed the course with flying colors!

For whatever reason I've been blessed with an incredible song memory. This gift was passed down to me by my grandmother who also knew hundreds of hymns by heart. As a child I would sit on her organ bench and listen to her play from a list of song titles with no music in front of her. I always thought this was an amazing feat in and of itself. However, I now realize that her greatest gift was sharing the story of Jesus with her grandson, utilizing this special ability that God had given her.

Abiding Savior is at an interesting point in its history that is filled with great potential. We've spent the past year working hard on creating new Welcome and Mission Statements that describe who we are as a community of faith. I believe both of these statements are clear, concise and easy to share. Many creative minds went into their creation and our combined

effort is greater than what any one of us could have come up with on our own.

Now it's time for us to "tell the story of Jesus and his love" in a slightly different way than we have before. Our new Welcome Statement says that Christ is the center of everything we do as a church. If we try to place anything else in the center of the circle it will not hold together. Not political ideology nor theology. Not socio-economic status or any other criteria. It's 100% Jesus, 100% of the time.

I believe this is a message our community needs to hear. In a time when religious conservatives are trying to dominate the conversation about what it means to be a Christian, our voice needs to be heard as well. Being a follower of Christ does not mean we have to pass some litmus test in order to be counted as a believer. Christianity is about entering into a living, dynamic relationship with a loving Savior who has already invited us into the circle of God's grace, mercy, forgiveness and healing. The only thing we have to DO is say "yes" to the invitation.

I believe there are people out there who are looking for a church like Abiding Savior. They just need to know we exist and need to hear a personal invitation to come and join us. We are going to do this in many different ways [cont]

[from Page 1] over the next few months. We are hoping that every member of our congregation will volunteer in some way to become evangelists in the community at large. This might mean sharing a church brochure with a neighbor or a friend, and then inviting them to meet you at ASLC on a particular Sunday. It might mean placing flyers on community bulletin boards. However you can help, it will be appreciated. We'll keep you posted on the ways you can share our church's story in the coming months.

In the meantime, we are going to have a churchwide day retreat on Saturday, May 12th, 9:00am-12:00pm. It will include elements of worship, fellowship and strategic planning. We'll break up into small groups to work on various aspects of our church's ministry and outreach. Then we will come together to put together a strategic plan with steps to accomplish and deadlines to meet. I hope we can have a great turn out for this retreat. The more minds and creativity we have, the better the outcome will be.

Let's move forward with a bold vision for "doing church" and trust that Christ will call others to join us in our work on behalf of the gospel.

Keep praying and dreaming!
Pastor Dave

Financial Secretary's Report

	March 2012
General Fund Giving:	\$ 6,382.79
Monthly Budget Needed:	<u>9,427.00</u>
Difference	(\$ 3,044.21) short

Other General Fund amounts taken in for the month was \$490.79, included the following: Lent, Coffee, US Treasury refund, CD Sales. Designated amounts not listed in GF: Habitat \$250 and Flowers \$99.

Toni Corkran, Financial Secretary
 April 4, 2011

Heat Pump Fund Balance

According to Doris Wright, our treasurer, we collected \$1000 more for the Heat Pump Fund during the first three weeks of April. This means we now only owe \$885.50! That's pretty amazing considering we borrowed \$16,000 from ourselves less than two years ago.

Memorial Gifts Report

Memorial gifts: Jan 1 - March 31

For: Jack Graves From: Meg Graves
 For: Vera Fricke From: H.F. Ciavarella
 Irene Sayers
 Ray & Doris Wright

Lawn Help Needed

Lawson Hebb has mowed our lawn faithfully for the past few years and would like to retire! Is there anyone out there who would be willing to help with this task? If several people volunteered we could take turns and make the job much easier. Please see Pastor Dave if you're willing to help.

Welcome Bishop Bolick

Rev. Leonard Bolick, bishop of the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA, was our guest preacher on Sunday, April 22nd. He also hosted a Q&A during the Sunday School time after worship. It was great to have him with us!



Churchwide Planning Retreat

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, May 12th, 9:00am-12pm. We will be involved in a churchwide strategic planning retreat and everyone is encourage to attend. The retreat will include elements of worship, fellowship and planning. We are going to develop an evangelism strategy that will help us to better tell our story in the community at large. This will include the information we received from everyone back in January when our Council President, Mark Barrett led a Sunday morning session. Some of the things on that list are already being put into place but there is still more that need to be explored.

Bring your best ideas and creativity. Our goal is to come up with a concrete plan with measurable goals that will help us to grow and flourish as a congregation. Hope you can join us.

ASLC Becomes a Voting Location

Abiding Savior is going to be one of Fairview's new locations for voting this year. What this means for us is that the Board of Elections will set up the voting station in our Fellowship Hall on Monday, May 7th and will have the space all day May 8th as well. We will also host the run-off if it is necessary as well as the general election this fall.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us to serve our community and also get people onto our property to see how beautiful it is. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Dave.

Evangelists Wanted

The Outreach Committee needs your help. We've developed a new brochure and business cards that can be handed out to friends, neighbors, etc. who might be interested in attending our church. We also have a new poster that can be placed on community bulletin boards. Everyone can grab these items in the narthex. With regard to the posters, we're looking for people who are willing to "adopt" a section of the city because our posters will need to be replaced from time to

time. If you're interested in this ministry, let Pastor Dave know so we can co-ordinate who is going to cover what area. The success of us telling our story in the community at large depends on everyone in our church doing their part in whatever way they can. Together, we can help spread the word about what God is doing at Abiding Savior.

Relay For Life

This year's Relay For Life is going to be held on Friday, June 1st, 6:00pm at Reynolds High School. ASLC is a sponsor for this year's walk. We are also going to have a Welcome tent where we will pass out free bottles of water and have the opportunity to meet and greet the community. If you would like to help with the Welcome tent, please let Pastor Dave know. Thank you!

Last Week of Sunday School

The last week of Sunday School will be Sunday, May 20th since the next Sunday is Memorial Day weekend. Class will resume the week after Labor Day this coming fall. Worship time will remain the same during the summer months.



Our Resurrection Cross 2012

Birthdays

Toni Corkran 4
 Theresa Goodell 5
 Chip Prazich 31

Anniversaries

Ken Lenington & Beth DeLap 5/4/1996
 Marge Sullivan & Shelia Rains 5/28/2011
 Kevin & Chris Taylor 5/31/1986

Prayer List

In addition to ASLC members on our prayer list, we are praying for the following family and friends: Tammy Epley - Nancy Albright's daughter, Kim Hoffman - Linda Hoffman's niece, Keith Lee - Susan Bolick's Dad, Buddy Lou Downs - friend of Irene Sayers, Mike Bruckner - friend of Linda Burgin, Sue Lawrence - family of Shelia & Marge, Danny Reeves - friend of Lawson Hebb, the Robinson family - friends of the congregation.



Happy birthday to Pastor Dave who turned 50 on April 7th!

Greeter	Toni Corkran	6	Toni Corkran	13	Shelia Rains	20	Linda Butera	27
Reader	John Corkran		George Hellyer		Harold Sweitzer		Lawson Hebb	
Worship Asst	John Corkran		Andrea Slusser		Harold Sweitzer		Lawson Hebb	
Usher	Jim Long				Ray Wright		Shelia Rains	
Usher	Ray Wright				Jim Long		Marge Sullivan	
Tabulate	Butera/Long		Sayers/Hebb		ColemanHoffman		Rains/Sullivan	
Altar Care	Toni Corkran		Terri Goodell		Sue Boeger		Lynnie Barrett	
Coffee Host	Lynnie Barrett		Jennifer Ownbey		Doris Wright		Linda Butera	