

# The Good News

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church



## Pondering Pastor

The Jesse Tree featured in the 30 minute mid-week worship throughout Advent invites adults and children alike to enjoy the re-telling of God's Salvation History. During the Evening Prayer the children are gathered in the front to listen to the familiar stories from the bible, then place a special symbolic ornament on the Jesse Tree. These readings prepare us for the coming of God's Salvation promise, Jesus!



### New Disciples

Uniting with our ministry on October 30<sup>th</sup> were Jocelyn Brummett; Steve Capnerhurst with daughter, Chelsea; Patrick and Katie Lucey; Bill and Amy White; Troy and Barbie Windom with daughter, Laura and son, Trevor; Jim and Jane Nelson; Bob and Kathy Weiser; Turi Watson; Chris and Stacy Kropp.

### Newly Baptized

Baptized into Christ Jesus on November 6<sup>th</sup> were Caleb Andrew Bates, Connor James Lucey, Jackson Wiles McDaniel, and Angelina Jill Perks.

### Newly Communioning

We welcome to the Lord's Table Eric Scheer, Jeremy Darden, Aiden & Grayson Kotlarek who received their first Holy Communion on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Farewell Charlie!

The month of December marks a turning point in the life of Abiding Presence, as we say "Farewell and Godspeed" to Mr. Charlie Klusman. For six years Charlie has helped focus our ministry on a very important population - our youth and children. As Charlie follows through on his desire to pursue a new career, we are prayerfully grateful for his ministry, but also supportive of the new direction he is taking.

A group of member disciples (Chris Stygles, Ann Ransdell, Bryan Hawk, Peggy Smith, Danielle Coffee, Eddie McIntosh, Linda Bannard and Kim Basden) have been selected to work as a *task force* to consider where we go from here regarding staffing. They have met once and will continue to meet for the next few months with the directive to bring to the council suggestions about future staffing possibilities. This group will be scanning the congregation for your feedback about the need to staff effectively for ministry, taking into consideration our fiscal challenges and developing demographics. We look forward to their good work.

May the joy of this Advent and Christmas season heighten your sense of God's presence, inspire you to live more fully into each moment, and stimulate you to deeper gratitude for the grace of a baby born in Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Peace, Pastor Jeffrey Ingold

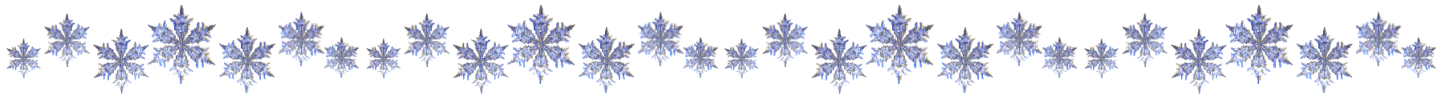
Volume 17, Issue 12  
December 2011

### Special points of interest:

- Dec 2 — Charlie's Farewell Potluck
- Dec 3 — Chancel Choir Workshop, Hanging of the Greens and Christmas Decorating
- Dec 5 — Worship, Music and Arts Team meeting
- Dec 6 — Finance Team
- Dec 7, 14 — Koinonia Wednesday, Christmas Program practice, Advent Worship
- Dec 10 — Altar Guild Team
- Dec 12 — Property Team
- Dec 16 — Youth and Children's Christmas Party
- Dec 17 — Church Work Day, Anew Women's Group
- Dec 18 — Organization and Policy Team
- Dec 19 — Church Council
- Dec 21 — Koinonia Wednesday, Christmas Program, Advent Worship
- Dec 24 — Christmas Eve Worship Services
- Dec 25 — Christmas Day Combined Worship Service

### Inside this issue:

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## Upcoming Seasonal Worship Services

Here's a little preview of upcoming special worship services. Mark your calendars now and plan to participate in these seasonal worship opportunities:

Wednesday Advent worships, Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00pm:  
November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 7<sup>th</sup>, December 14<sup>th</sup>, December 21<sup>st</sup>

### Christmas Worship Services:

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm, led by Praise Band – White gifts collected  
December 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:30pm, led by organ and Chancel Choir – Candlelighting  
December 25<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am, combined music styles, Lessons and Carols  
January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, 11:00am, combined music styles, Christmas continues

*Note: We will NOT be holding an Epiphany worship on January 6<sup>th</sup> this season due to a scheduling conflict with our congregation's AoB retreat.*

## Join the Praise Team



The Praise Team, sometimes also referred to as Sent Forth, is the group of adult volunteers who help lead music at the early worship. If you are a singer or instrumentalist who has been thinking of joining the group, now is a great time. Currently, two rehearsals are available to accommodate busy schedules: 7:00pm on Tuesdays OR 11:00am on Thursdays...you are invited to join us!

If you are interested in joining the group and helping to lead the music at early worship, contact Amanda: [amanda@doveandcross.org](mailto:amanda@doveandcross.org).

## Chancel Choir Workshop



On Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Chancel Choir will hold a special rehearsal in preparation for the upcoming Advent-Christmas seasons. Our day begins at 9:30am and lasts through 2:30pm. We'll spend a lot of time in sectionals learning our parts and break for a game or two and a tasty lunch.

If you are not a regular choir member, but would like to join the choir for any songs throughout the holidays, you are encouraged to attend this rehearsal; please contact Amanda at [amanda@doveandcross.org](mailto:amanda@doveandcross.org) and let her know that you are planning to attend the choir workshop on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 9:30-2:30. You don't have to commit to every Sunday to sing with us; if you are interested in using your musical gifts in the Chancel Choir, contact Amanda today!

## Liturgy Updates

Parts of our liturgy (worship order and music) adjust with the seasons. As the new church year began with Advent on November 27<sup>th</sup> we have omitted the Song of Praise near the beginning of our worships. In lieu of this portion of the liturgy, we will sing a verse of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" as we light the Advent Wreath each week.

In the early worship, we will continue to use the new setting of liturgy music written by a member of our congregation, Julie Schmidt.

In the late worship, we will begin switching over to Setting 1; the music for this setting begins on page 98 in the front portion of the hymnal where the page numbers are printed on the bottom. Throughout the entire last church year the late worship used Setting 4. Each week of Advent at the late worship, a portion of the liturgy will be switched from Setting 4 to Setting 1. Setting 1 was last used three years ago, shortly after the new hymnals were purchased; many of you may find it familiar. For those of you who may not recognize it, you will have an opportunity to hear the portion that is being added each week during the announcements at the late worship.

# S.T.O.R.M. CENTRAL

Service To Others Resource Ministry



## Team Members

Mike Coffee, Leader  
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## Angel Tree

The S.T.O.R.M. (Service To Others Resource Ministry) team will once again be setting up the ANGEL TREE in early December to provide gifts for families in our area who are in need. The tree will be set up in the narthex and decorated with paper ornaments with gift information listed on it. If you would like to help in this area of ministry, select an ornament (or as many as you'd like), purchase the gift(s), wrap it and put the ornament on the gift so we will know who the gift is for.



The gifts must be brought back to church and placed under the Angel Tree by Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. We also need some volunteers to help deliver the gifts to each family. Please contact Sonja Nordheim at 919-995-5890 or [sonjanordie@yahoo.com](mailto:sonjanordie@yahoo.com) if you'd like to help with deliveries.

## Many Thanks!

The APLC STORM Team would like to thank the congregation for their generous donations of food for the Thanksgiving dinners that we provided to five local families in need. The families appreciated your gifts and the wonderful food that you provided. Thank you for reaching out and serving the needs of all of God's children.

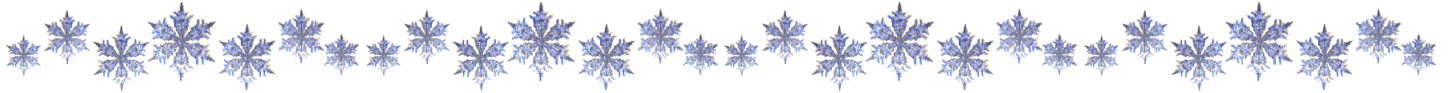
## APLC Financial Update

As shared in the recent budget workshop and congregation meeting, giving year to date has fallen behind. Expenses continue to be monitored and scrutinized to help us make it through the end of the year.

Each month that expenses exceed giving, we dip a bit further into savings. Members are encouraged to continue fulfilling their pledge commitment which sustains the many ministries at APLC. If you have fallen behind on pledges, please consider making catch up contributions. Please remember your contributions are tax deductible.



Please check the Sunday bulletin each week to stay informed of our current giving performance and year to date expenses. Let's finish 2011 strong!



## Be a Worship Assistant on Sunday Mornings

Every time we gather for worship at Abiding Presence, volunteers help to lead us. In fact, each worship needs about 12 volunteers in the various Worship Assistant roles (and that doesn't include the band/choir!). Worship Assistant roles include: Nursery Attendant, Acolyte, Crucifer, Assistant Minister, Reader, Audio/Visual Booth, Altar Guild, Ushers, and Greeters/Presenters.



Currently we are especially recruiting for additional Audio/Visual Booth helpers at early worship and Nursery Attendants for both services.

*Nursery Attendants: Care for and supervise children ages infant – 5 years in the Nursery during either the early or late worship.*

*Audio/Visual Booth: Adjust volume levels as necessary and progress slides used for worship order. At the early worship, we are needing 2 A/V helpers each week.*

If you are already serving as a Worship Assistant, thank you very much. ☺ If you would like to become a Worship Assistant, send an e-mail to Amanda at [amanda@doveandcross.org](mailto:amanda@doveandcross.org) or to [worship@doveandcross.org](mailto:worship@doveandcross.org) and you will be connected to the appropriate people for your orientation and training.

## A.P.P.L.E. Seeds



The Christmas music is already been on the radio since the beginning of the month and the stores are filled with Christmas decorations. There is that feeling of excitement as we prepare to celebrate the birthday of Jesus!

Here at A.P.P.L.E. Seeds, we are also getting into that Christmas Spirit. It is just hard to believe that we already had our delicious Thanksgiving Feasts and now are ready to begin practicing for our Christmas Chapel Program and start creating all sorts of wonderful Christmas projects.

All are welcome to come and celebrate this season of joy with the A.P.P.L.E. Seeds Preschool children! We wish you all a safe and very merry Christmas!



## Policy Spotlight

The Policy Spotlight will highlight one APLC policy each month. Featured this month is the [Transportation Policy](#), which is provided to maintain safety when transporting our children and youth to and from church related functions. The policy includes requirements for drivers, safety rules for vehicles, and guidelines to follow when in route and in case of emergency during travel.

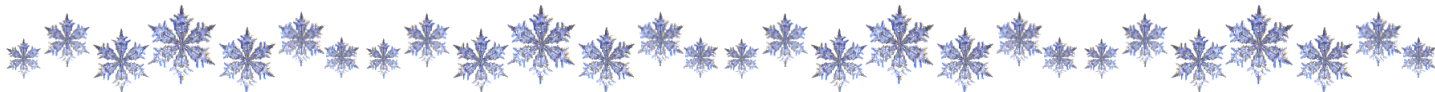
A complete set of APLC policies can be found by visiting the Organization & Policy AIM team page at <http://www.doveandcross.org/ministries/aim/organization-policy/>.

## Gluten-free option for Communion



The Altar Guild and Worship, Music, and Arts Team are pleased to provide a gluten-free option for those worshippers who need it. Gluten-free wafers are in stock in the sacristy. These wafers are made with potato and rice and are free of gluten, soy, dairy, and wheat. If you are in need to receive these gluten-free wafers, please contact Pastor Jeffrey or a member of the altar guild—please give them timely notice as special preparations do need to be made.





## Council News

On Sunday Nov 20<sup>th</sup>, APLC members voted to approve the proposed budget for 2012 of \$381,600. Also, four new council members were elected to fill four seats with each seat serving three year terms starting in January 2012. Those elected include: Hugh Bannard, Jennifer Bland, Tara Glaspey, and Sharon Silcox.

Council would like to thank all members in attendance, and each council nominee for running and their willingness to serve. A copy of the meeting materials can still be found online at:

<http://groups.abidingpresencelutheranchurch.org/viewtopic.php?f=12&t=137>

We appreciate your continued and sustaining support. We are the church growing in faith, reaching out, inviting in, and serving the needs of all God's children.

APLC Church Council

## Sunday School News

With the upcoming holidays, please note that we will not be holding Sunday School on the following dates:

December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day  
January 1<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Day

### Children's Christmas Pageant (6:00-6:50)

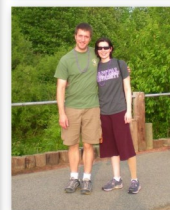
Children of all ages are invited to participate in this year's Christmas Pageant. Rehearsals will take place on the following dates during KOINONIA Wednesdays! from 6:00 to 6:50pm:

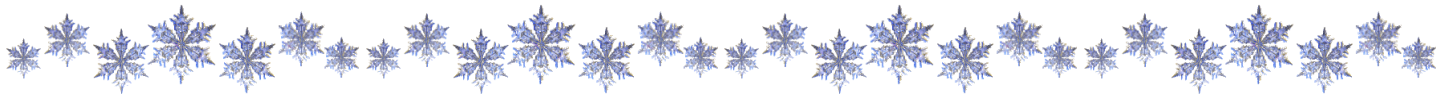
December 7<sup>th</sup>  
December 14<sup>th</sup>

Even if you aren't able to join us for all the rehearsals, you are still welcome to come and participate!

The Pageant will take place on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm. All of APLC is invited to attend.

## Farewell Charlie! Our prayers and best wishes go with you.





## Youth and Family Ministries News

Youth & Family Ministry Website: [youth.abidingpresencelutheranchurch.org](http://youth.abidingpresencelutheranchurch.org)

### Charlie's Farewell Message

Greetings APLC Congregation,

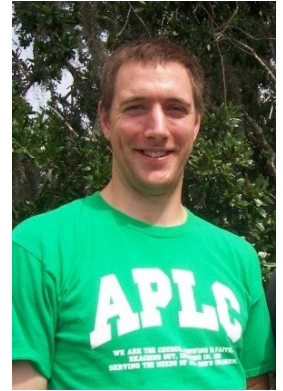
My last day (December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011) as Director of Youth and Children Ministries is fast approaching, and I want to thank you for the opportunity to have served at this congregation for the past six years. I have TRULY enjoyed getting to know and work with so many children, youth and adults.

At this point in my life, I am ready for a career change, and over the next one and a half years I will be returning to college full time at Nash Community College in Rocky Mount to obtain training to be a physical therapy assistant. Physical Therapy has interested me since my days of playing high school and college sports, and I am excited to work with and encourage individuals to work towards their rehabilitation goals. I have greatly appreciated all of the words of support and encouragement that you have offered to me as I embark on this new career journey.

As APLC explores its staffing needs I want to extend encouragement to each of you about how you might use your gifts within the youth ministries at APLC. Be a youth advisor: lead youth groups, participate in weekend youth retreats. Help out on Koinonia Wednesdays by prepping food on the Fish and Loaves team. Drive youth to LYO rallies or other events. Give a scholarship for a youth to attend summer camp. Ask Pastor Jeffrey [jeffreyingold@doveandcross.org](mailto:jeffreyingold@doveandcross.org) or check your announcements to see who you can ask about getting involved; your time and efforts can greatly and positively impact the youth at APLC.

Studies have shown that in order for youth to succeed in today's society they ***need 7-9 positive adult role models*** in their lives to grow into a healthy young person. While being an individual is important, youth also need to know that, as a Child of God, they have the support of their faith community. Please take the time to get to know the youth at APLC and become involved when and where you can so the youth know that disciples at APLC continue to care for and support them throughout this transitional time.

Blessings, Charlie Klusman



### O Holy Night

December 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at Camp Agapé

Put this special evening on your calendar now. This popular Christmas pageant around the pond at Agapé has drawn up to 200 people. Bring your family or come and join other friends in faith and experience the real reason for the season. Each showing is less than an hour. Many of the summer staff will return to make this event extra special for summer campers.



Please check our web site at [www.agapekurebeach.org](http://www.agapekurebeach.org) for details on all of these great opportunities. Remember camp is only 12 miles from the Church and these are wonderful opportunities to get to know your camp better.

## Youth and Family Ministries News continued

Youth & Family Ministry Website: [youth.abidingpresencelutheranchurch.org](http://youth.abidingpresencelutheranchurch.org)

### National Youth Gathering

Youth and adults from APLC will be traveling to New Orleans, LA for the July 18-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 National Youth Gathering. This group will be gathering with 36,000 other Lutheran's from across the United States to serve, praise, build relationships and learn how we can better serve our communities here in NC.

Stay tuned for more information about how this group is preparing for the gathering and how you can support them through their preparation this year. Participants and parents, please keep an eye out for fundraising and meeting times in weekly announcements.



### Youth and Family Ministry Opportunities



**Working w/ youth and children (Being a youth advisor!):** At APLC adults who work with the youth and children are called "Youth Advisors". These individuals have the opportunity make a difference in a young person's faith journey by leading or assisting in leading youth group events on Koinonia Wednesdays, and/or participating at service events and lock-ins. They make a difference in a young person's life by being a positive presence who is willing to listen and share their life experiences with others. Adults are asked to be present at one-two youth events a month. Youth Advisors are asked to complete a brief training w/ the director of youth and children's ministry before participating.

**Fish and Loaves Team:** The Fish and Loaves Team is a ministry that provides meals for families, couples and individuals who want to participate on Koinonia Wednesdays. This group works together to plan, prepare, serve and clean up the meal to provide a meal. People who enjoy cooking, coordinating, setting up or taking down our space, and corresponding with people via phone / e-mail are all invited to be part of this team.

**High School Youth Ministries:** Hey 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth! Join us as we serve, laugh and play, learn and praise God together. You will have opportunities to lead other age groups, join youth your age in discussion about your journey with God and get away from the stresses of school and other extra curricular activities.

**Middle School Youth Ministries:** Hey 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth! Join us as we serve, laugh and play, learn and praise God together. You will have opportunities to lead other age groups, join youth your age in discussion about your journey with God and get away from the stresses of school and other extra curricular activities.

**APE Kids Youth Ministries:** 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to explore their faith journey with other youth their age and caring leaders. Youth will have opportunities to serve, play and laugh, learn and praise God together. Your youth will have the opportunity to build solid relationships with other youth their own age before they begin middle and high school.

**Mustard Seeds Children's Ministries:** 4 year olds to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade children now have the opportunity to gather at APLC with caring leaders! This young group will focus on relationship building, learn how much God loves them and how we can spread that love in the world.

**How do I get involved?** To get you or your family involved in any of these groups as participants, leaders or helpers, please contact Jim Nelson [colq868@gmail.com](mailto:colq868@gmail.com).

# SAVIOR ORNAMENT

This Christmas, celebrate Jesus' birthday by making this keepsake ornament.

### What you need:

- Wooden clothespin with round end
- Black permanent marker
- White cloth or felt
- Small wooden star (available at craft stores)
- Yellow paint
- Paintbrush
- Gold glitter (optional)
- Glue gun (and an adult)
- Straw-colored raffia
- Palm-size wicker wreath (available at craft stores)
- Ribbon

### What you do:

1. On the clothespin's round knob, draw two dots for eyes.
2. Wrap the white cloth around the clothespin, like a swaddled baby.
3. Paint the star yellow; add glitter, if desired.
4. With the glue gun and adult supervision, glue the raffia to the bottom inside of the wreath. Then glue the swaddled clothespin atop the raffia and glue the gold star atop the wreath.
5. Tie a ribbon around the top, near the star.
6. Hang the ornament on your Christmas tree or tie it on a gift.

## A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

**Directions:** To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.

7+6 strength    9+1 shepherd    30-5 the    7+5 ends    50-26 live

21-10 will    27-29 reach    10+7 flock    40-20 stand    15+9 security    8+8 his

35-31 Lord    17-3 greatness    10-5 earth    10+5 will    5+1 will

"He \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_  
15                      20                      10                      17

in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ ... And they \_\_\_\_\_  
13                      4                      11                      24

\_\_\_\_\_, for then \_\_\_\_\_  
18                      16                      14                      8

\_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_"  
3                      12                      20                      7

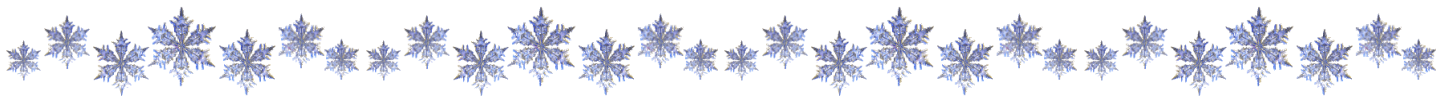
MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord ... And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

# December 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11:00am Sent Forth 6:30pm FV Women's Group 6:30pm Girl Scouts	2 6:00pm Charlie's Farewell Potluck	3 9:30am Chancel Choir Workshop 2:30pm Hanging of the Greens / Christmas Decorating
4	5 7:00pm Worship, Music and Arts Team	6 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Finance Team 7:00pm Sent Forth	7 10:00am OWLS 5:30pm KOINONIA Wednesday! 7:00pm Advent Worship	8 11:00am Sent Forth 6:30pm FV Women's Group	9	10 10:00am Altar Guild
11	12 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Property Team	13 7:00pm Sent Forth	14 10:00am OWLS 5:30pm KOINONIA Wednesday! 7:00pm Advent Worship	15 11am Sent Forth 6:30pm FV Women's Group	16 6:30pm Youth and Children's Christmas Party	17 8:00am Work Day 11:30am Anew Women's Group
18	19 7:00pm Church Council	20 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Sent Forth	21 10:00am OWLS 5:30pm KOINONIA Wednesday! 7:00pm Advent Worship	22 11am Sent Forth 6:30pm FV Women's Group	23	24 6:00pm Christmas Eve Contemporary Worship 10:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
25 Christmas Day 11:00am Combined Worship No Sunday School	26	27 6:00pm Girl Scouts	28	29 6:30pm FV Women's Group	30	31



## *Abiding Presence Lutheran Church*

7300 Sunset Lake Rd.  
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526  
Phone: 919-557-0060  
e-mail: [office@doveandcross.org](mailto:office@doveandcross.org)  
[www.doveandcross.org](http://www.doveandcross.org)

### **Ministry Contacts:**

**Jeffrey Ingold**, *Pastor*  
**Amanda Klusman**, *Director of Music Ministries*  
**Valerie Jones**, *A.P.P.L.E. Seeds Director*

### **Worship Schedule**

**Contemporary Worship — 8:30 am**  
**Traditional Worship — 11:00 am**

### Mission Statement

We are the church growing in faith,  
reaching out, inviting in,  
and serving the needs of all of God's children.

### Vision

Boldly sharing the gospel of Christ.  
Enthusiastically building up the church, the body of Christ,  
and joyfully witnessing to the love of Christ.

## **AGAPÉ✝KURE BEACH MINISTRIES**

### **UP-COMING EVENTS:**

- ✝ Summer is coming! We are searching for quality Christian young adults to serve as counselors on our 2012 summer staff. Applicants must be 19 years minimum, love kids, and want a fun and exciting challenge. Contact Randy at [exec@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:exec@agapekurebeach.org).
- ✝ "O Holy Night" December 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Bring your family, youth group or come alone. Enjoy an evening of light food and fellowship followed by a special worship under the stars at our Lakeside Chapel. See website for cost and times.
- ✝ Discernment Retreat for young adults at Kure Beach December 19-21, 2011. What are your gifts? How is God calling you to use those gifts in this world? Almost free (\$10.00 registration fee). All meals included, and bring your own linens or sleeping bag. For more info contact Katie 919-552-9421 [program@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:program@agapekurebeach.org).
- ✝ Watch for the summer brochure coming mid-January.
- ✝ The ministry is in need of a mini-van for our summer day camp and a golf cart or new batteries for a golf cart.
- ✝ Book your retreat now for 2012. Call to see what is available at both sites. (June openings at Kure Beach—call now!) Also there are still a few winter rate weekends available in February.



Contact Camp Agapé: Telephone: 919-552-9421 E-mail: [agape@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:agape@agapekurebeach.org)  
Contact Kure Beach Office: Telephone: 910-458-0783 E-mail: [kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org)  
Web site: [www.agapekurebeach.org](http://www.agapekurebeach.org)