

The Good News

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church



WANTED:

Members who dream, can you help?

What should Abiding Presence Lutheran Church be like three years from now in 2015? Or what should we be accomplishing in the name of our Lord?

To provide answers to these questions, the Congregation's Strategic Visioning Team has announced it is launching a new effort to update the original master plan for growth and development. The process of taking a new "pulse" of the congregation will involve opportunities for all Area In Ministry (AIM) groups and individual members to share their dreams about what they would like to see in the future as part of the continued, dynamic life of the congregation.



In an effort to create an updated dream as to what the future holds, the team will be working on several major areas to focus attention on the church's Mission Statement. As before, the Mission Statement will guide the new strategic plan. The plan will permit the congregation to have an overall approach to live out God's vision for Abiding Presence.

The effort to create a modern day vision will be under the direction of Phillip Fleming who will again serve as team leader. Fleming originally created the study called "Future Vision" in 2007. The study attempted to capture the dreams for the benchmark years of 2010 and 2015. That study resulted in nearly 100 pages listing 1,199 dreams and ideas for the future.

"The new survey will be called, "Future Vision Revisited", Fleming announced. "Since we have already passed the 2010 target, we will now be looking at the year 2015," he added. "Our goals will be to update the 'Congregational Plan for Growth' that provides general concepts for growth involving programs, services and resources. We will also identify specific activities suggested by the congregation as "Strategic Directions for Growth" providing ideas to strengthen and expand the congregation by 2015," Fleming added.

A new area, according to Fleming, will be a section on 2015 ideas as suggested back in 2007 to see how they are viewed or ranked today.

The team's activities will begin in January with a kickoff event opened to members who wish to take part in a discussion session. The study is expected to be completed by May, 2012. The report then will be summarized during a presentation made during a special social gathering.

Continued on page 2, see Wanted.

Volume 18, Issue 1
January 2012

Special points of interest:

- Jan 1 — Combined Worship at 11:00am, No Sunday School
- Jan 2 — Church office closed
- Jan 4 — Take down Christmas Decorations
- Jan 4, 11, 18, 25 — OWLS
- Jan 6-7— A.o.B 7th and 8th Grade Winter Retreat @ Agapé
- Jan 9 — Property Team, Worship, Music and Arts Team
- Jan 14 — Altar Guild
- Jan 16 — ACE Education Fund-raiser
- Jan 21— Church Work Day
- Jan 22 — NYG Planning Meeting
- Jan 25 — Annual Congregation Meeting
- Jan 28 — Anew Women's Group

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Pondering Pastor

2012! My, how time flies. It seems like just yesterday when I was looking forward to 2002 and all the wonders it would bring into my life. 2002 was the year I joined the ministry of Abiding Presence as your pastor. It's also the year I turned 40! Now, a decade has come and gone and this year I will observe my 10th anniversary as pastor of Abiding Presence and I will turn 50. Wow! Breathe, Jeffrey, breathe. My, how time does indeed fly!

I am reminded of the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes, chapter 3. It starts off with the sentence, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under the heaven." Then, verse after verse it lists off the many events that may happen throughout a lifetime, each, the scripture claims, in its right time; presumably God's time. And, yet, time still confounds us in so many ways. Our perspective on it changes over the years. Time is constant but our experience of it varies.

So, we turn a calendar page together (actually, we start on a whole new calendar) into 2012. What will time be like for us as we celebrate 10 years of ministry together and I get used to becoming officially "middle-aged"? I pray it will be eventful, but peaceful; challenging, but hopeful; reflective, but visionary; productive, but meditative; sobering, but joyful; inspirational, but balanced; agreeable, but broad-reaching; effective, but inviting; and Biblically oriented, but Christ-centered.

2012! "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under the heaven," and all of it, whether it goes by slowly or expeditiously, is in God's time.

Blessed New Year!
Pastor Jeffrey Ingold

Affirmation of Baptism: Service Project

Lutheran Disaster Relief invited congregations and groups to participate in the *Clean-Up Bucket* service project. In response to the flood clean-up buckets resulting from the hurricane striking the NC coast this summer, the 8th graders in our Affirmation of Baptism ministry filled two 2 buckets with lots of requested clean-up supplies. Thanks to the generous support of **Home Depot** we were able to buy the buckets and complete our service project.



Pictured from left to right: Jessica Ladrie, Lee Pound, Mr. Paul Roy, Alex Roy with cleaning supply bucket, Mrs. Rose Roy, Meg Malone, Laura Windom, Pastor Jeffrey & Micah Ingold with cleaning supply bucket.

Wanted:

Continued from page 1

The study is expected to provide new information involving dreams, ideas and wishes gathered on survey forms that will be made available to all members and ministry teams. Strategic Vision team members will serve as facilitators to work with individual AIM teams to conduct the survey and to answer any questions during meetings. They will also work with the final report in helping to coordinate responses.

For interested members, 2007 results from the key sections scheduled to be revisited in the new study this year can be found on the church's web site by clicking on <http://www.doveandcross.org/strategic-visioning/>.

Help take down Christmas decorations – January 4th

All Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary and around the church will be taken down on Wednesday, January 4th beginning at 6:30pm. The Altar Guild is in need of additional volunteers to help them make light of this work.



Tasks include: putting away Christmas ornaments, wrapping up strands of lights, climbing a ladder to take down Sanctuary garland and bows, removal of Christmas trees, emptying sand and candles from luminaries, etc.

Please stop by and help if you can: January 4th at 6:30pm.

S.T.O.R.M. CENTRAL

Service To Others Resource Ministry



Team Members

Mike Coffee, Leader
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Angel Tree a Huge Success

The STORM Team Angel Tree project was a huge success thanks to a very generous congregation who helped us provide, sort and deliver gifts to 6 families. We collected 65 plus gifts for 9 adults and 11 children. All the families were very appreciative and hopefully this was a positive outreach ministry to them. Our church brochure was included with the gifts to let them know about APLC and what we have to offer. Please keep these families in your prayers.

Attention Women of APLC and beyond

A weekly Bible Study for women will start Tuesday, February 7th. Our first study will be "Believing God" by Beth Moore. This is a 10 week commitment. Workbooks can be purchased at Lifeway Christian Bookstore. Bring your glasses, pens, Bible and an open heart to experience an "explosion of faith". All are welcome, and bring your friends.



If you are interested in participating in this Bible study opportunity, please call Linda Bannard 919-762-9626 (home), 919-621-0006 (cell) or send an e-mail to lbannard@nc.rr.com.

The Time after Epiphany

After January 6th which is the Epiphany of Our Lord when Christ was revealed to all nations, we enter the season of the church year called The Time after Epiphany. Similar to the Time after Pentecost, it is considered an ordinary time; the festive days and seasons such as Advent and Christmas draw upon Christ's divinity while the ordinary time focuses on Christ's ministry and the church carrying out that ministry.



During this ordinary Time after Epiphany, we are encouraged by the lectionary scriptures to share the extraordinary gift and light of Christ that we received at Christmas and were revealed to the world at Epiphany. Enjoy sharing this extraordinary news in everyday and ordinary ways.

Seasonal Thank-Yous!

Thank you very much to the many groups and individuals who helped out during the Advent and Christmas seasons. We are blessed to have so many talented musicians who offered their musical gifts during Advent and Christmas to enhance and inspire our worships. We are also fortunate to have a great number of willing and able decorators who set-up and prepared as well as took down all of the decorations and embellishments that trimmed the inside and outside of our building. Thank you to the members of the Altar Guild who organized all these details and spent a great deal of time beautifying the building with seasonal accents. The Altar Guild wishes to especially thank:

- ✦ Chris Gitthens – making heavy-duty welded tree stands
- ✦ Brent Rinholm, Greg McGee, Brian Hawk, Mark Hartman and others – trimming/cutting and setting up trees
- ✦ Stacy Kropp, Steve Rockwell, Mark Hartman, and all of the Wednesday night helpers – hanging garland, bows, lights, ornaments, filling luminaries with sand and candles
- ✦ Peggy Smith & Janet Batot – new quilted Nativity banner
- ✦ Malone Family – donating the beautiful fresh Christmas trees in the sanctuary and Narthex and making fresh wreaths for main doors
- ✦ Malone Family & Rockwell Family – setting out and lighting Christmas Eve luminaries
- ✦ Phil Fleming – collecting candles year-round for luminary use and donating sand

With the extra and special worships come extra details to plan and sort through, and we appreciate the time given by all of the worship assistants and team leaders who planned and/or carried out those many fine detail tasks.

THANK YOU EVERYONE for making our Advent so hopeful and our Christmas so merry!



Thank you so very much for the wonderful cash gift given to me for Christmas.

Pastor Jeffrey



Policy Spotlight

The Policy Spotlight will highlight one APLC policy each month. Featured this month is the Money Counting Policy, which is provided to protect the organization's monetary assets, especially those provided via offerings. The policy safeguards money counters by providing a structure and procedure for counting offerings.

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/>.

Fundraiser Night for the Agapé Center for Environmental Education

Where: All Aboard Pizzeria
204 Village Walk Drive
Holly Springs (in the Harris Teeter Plaza)

When: Monday, January 16, 2012
from 5:00 p.m. to close

How much? 10% goes to ACE Education; just let them know you're there for ACE Ed. (Card provided below is optional)

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Happy! **January 2012** **Happy New Year** **Happy New Year**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11:00 Combined Worship Services No Sunday School	2 Church Office Closed	3 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Sent Forth	4 10:00am OWLS 6:30pm Take Down Christmas Decorations	5 11:00am Sent Forth 6:30pm FV Women's Group 6:30pm Girl Scouts	6 A.o.B 7 th and 8 th Grade Winter Retreat @ Agapé	7 A.o.B 7 th and 8 th Grade Winter Retreat @ Agapé
8	9 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Property Team 7:00pm Worship, Music and Arts Team	10 7:00pm Sent Forth	11 10:00am OWLS	12 11:00am Sent Forth 6:30pm FV Women's Group	13 10:00am Altar Guild	14
15	16 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Property Team 7:00pm Worship, Music and Arts Team	17 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Sent Forth	18 10:00am OWLS	19 11am Sent Forth 6:30pm FV Women's Group	20 8:00am Work Day	21
22	23 6:00pm Girl Scouts	24 7:00pm Sent Forth	25 10:00am OWLS 6:30pm Annual Congregation Meeting	26 11am Sent Forth 6:30pm FV Women's Group	27 9:30am ANEW Women's Group	28
29 12:15pm NYG Planning Meeting	30 6:00pm Girl Scouts	31 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Sent Forth				

Happy New Year Happy New Year Happy New Year

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church

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Phone: 919-557-0060
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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 old, love kids, and want a fun and exciting challenge. Contact Camp Agapé for an application.
- ✠ Summer brochures will be arriving at your church soon. Contact the office if you need more. Summer Camp information will be available on our web site in early January.
- ✠ Saturday Safari, February 18, 2012. Choose your own topic with 10 people required in your group. Cost is \$8.00 per person \$40.00 maximum per family. Pre-registration is required, see aceed@agapekurebeach.org.
- ✠ Building Youth Groups is for grades 3-5. This is a growing part of our ministry to your church. We have space available this Spring for your church the week of April 13-15th. Contact Katie if you are interested or want more information about this program.
- ✠ We have openings for Summer Day Camps for July 1-6, July 15-20, and July 29-August 3. We also offer Middle School Day Camp. Contact Katie for details.
- ✠ Our ministry is in need of a minivan for Camp Agapé day camp program.
- ✠ The Kure Beach Center still has some summer openings. Call for more information.



Contact Camp Agapé: Telephone: 919-552-9421 E-mail: agape@agapekurebeach.org
Contact Kure Beach Office: Telephone: 910-458-0783 E-mail: kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org
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