

Abiding Savior News



United in Christ. Welcoming All.

August 2010

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

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Pastor's Column

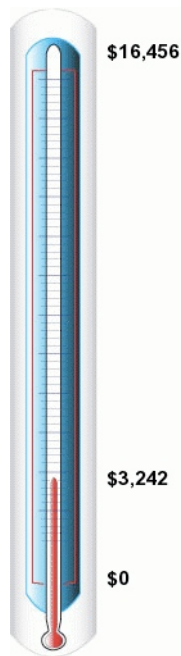
Holy Heat Pumps! Who would have ever thought that ten years after our building was built we would be facing the replacement of two heating units. Apparently the contractor did not use the best units to start with and now we're paying the price for it. But that's useless information to us now!

The first unit was installed in July and is working wonderfully well. It's a Trane which is the best. It's much more energy efficient which will help us to lower our electric bill each month.

The second unit is the one that controls the narthex and the front of the building. It will be identical to the one we installed in the sanctuary. Council has set the installation for this unit for the first Sunday in October.

The challenge, of course, is that we now have \$16,465 in unexpected expenses for this year. The good news is that we have enough reserve funds to pay for both of these units. The bad news is that it leaves us with very little money left for emergencies and general operating expenses.

Our goal as a congregation will be to build back our reserve funds over the next year. Every dollar counts so if you can put even a small amount toward the heat pumps we will be that much closer to achieving our goal. As of July 11th we have raised \$3,242 between the yard sale and individual contributions.



If you're like me, you cannot afford to give a big donation but can give smaller donations over time. For example, I pledge on a weekly basis to ASLC. Until we reach our goal I'm going to treat every month like it's a five Sunday month which means that most months I'll give an extra week's pledge. This is just a suggestion. I simply ask you to pray about it and consider what God is leading you to give.

Paying off these new heating systems is challenging, but not impossible. If we all work together we can meet this goal given enough time. Thanks for your support!

Blessings, Pastor Dave

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

On Sunday, July 18th, Church Council had a special meeting to discuss the heat pump situation. Doris presented a report of our current cash status. Then various Council members reported what financial resources are available to help us deal with this challenge.

Thrivent offers no small loans and no equity line of credit. The Synod has no funds available for emergencies such as these. The Home Mission Foundation only gives loans for \$10,000 and we may not be eligible since we still have a loan on the building through the Home Mission Foundation.

Asheville Savings Bank holds our second mortgage. They are willing to give us an equity line of credit but it has to be paid off within a year. They also said we could add the amount onto our current mortgage loan. A question was also raised as to whether we would be able to negotiate for a lower interest rate on the loan. Council will look into this.

After all the options were discussed Council unanimously agreed that we would borrow the money from ASLC's Reserve Fund with the goal of replenishing this fund over the next year. We also decided to delay the installation of the second unit until October to give us some time to pay down the first one.

CIRCLES OF CARING

Abiding Savior has a wonderful opportunity this fall to get involved in ABCCM's Circles of Caring program. We need 4-6 people who are willing to become allies/mentors for a family that lives in poverty and is in danger of becoming homeless. The families are selected by ABCCM for this program and will attend a training program to help them build up financial, emotional and social resources.

We're really excited about this program which has a proven track record of success in other cities. This is a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to take the next step in helping to end homelessness in Buncombe County. Please see Pastor Dave to volunteer as a mentor. More information will follow in next month's newsletter.

THRIVENT CHOICE PROGRAM

If you are a Thrivent member, you will have the opportunity to direct funds to Abiding Savior through their Choice Dollars program. Sometime toward the end of August you should receive a letter with information on the program and details on how you can help direct Choice Dollar Funds to our congregation as well as other charitable organizations. This takes the place of the Care in Congregation Funds we used to receive and have used in the past for landscaping and other ministry needs. Please consider designating our congregation as the recipient of these funds. It could help us make a dent in paying for the new heat pumps!

PASTOR DAVE ON VACATION

Pastor Dave will be in Europe from August 13-25. He and Gary will be visiting Italy, Croatia, Greece and Turkey. Cindy Coleman will lead worship during the two Sundays he is gone and will also cover any pastoral emergencies that arise. Please contact her at 633-0743 or 989-1023.

MISSION TEAM MEETINGS AND COUNCIL

Mission Team meetings will resume on Tuesday, August 10th. Note the switch in time between Family Life and Worship. Family Life will meet with Outreach at 7:00 and Worship will meet at 7:30. Council is the third Thursday of each month.

JOURNEYS THROUGH REVELATION

Starting Sunday, September 12th, Pastor Dave will be teaching a nine week course on the book of Revelation during Sunday School, 10:15am. The course was written by Barbara Rossing, professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

Although brimming with mysterious symbolism, Revelation ultimately is a book of hope that throughout history has sustained people who are oppressed. It is a wonderfully Christ centered book, full of worship and praise, that has often been misunderstood and misinterpreted. Join Pastor Dave for a thoroughly Lutheran approach to this interesting and thought-provoking book of the Bible.

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

This is just a reminder that our fall worship schedule will resume the Sunday after Labor Day weekend, September 12th. Worship will be at 9:00 & 11:15. Adult Sunday School will be at 10:15.

RECORDING SESSION FOR CD

There will be one more small ensemble recording session for ASLC's new CD "How Can I Keep From Singing" on Sunday, August 8th, 12:00pm. Let Pastor Dave know if you want to have lunch after the second worship service. The release of the CD is scheduled for ASLC's anniversary Sunday, September 26th. All profits from the sale of the CD will go toward paying off our new heat pumps. [Our new CD would make a great Christmas present for family and friends so keep this in mind!]

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

Without the failure of two heat pumps, GF giving would be doing well for summer months. It's also possible that our receipts would not be at their current level without increased giving, designated or not, for the heat pumps. Normally, designated giving is not included in the GF giving number; but \$1620 designated for the heat pumps is included this time. Giving to the MF continues to run under our mortgage obligation:

	<u>Jan-May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
GF Giving	43661	7990	51651
GF Budgeted Spending	39845	7969	47814
Difference	+ 3816	+ 21	+ 3837
MF Giving	11757	2367	14124
MF Budgeted Spending	12795	2559	15354
Difference	- 1038	- 192	- 1230

Your ongoing generosity is very much needed, and appreciated.

Financial Secretary

BUSS PASS-IT-ON

The spare change jar in our narthex has undergone a transformation. The funds we receive in this container will be donated to a new program called Bus Pass-It On, whose goal is to provide free bus passes to the homeless for things like doctor's visits, rides to work, job interviews, etc. These bus passes will be distributed through A-Hope which is one of our city's largest homeless support agencies. You probably won't miss your pocket change but your donation will be a source of empowerment to those in our city who are trying to get ahead and move out of homelessness. Here's what our donations can buy: \$1 will buy an individual fare. \$7 will buy an 11 ticket booklet. \$15 will buy a monthly pass. There is a sheet in the narthex next to the jar that will give you more info. Thanks for your support!

DONATIONS SENT:

April.....	\$79.60
June.....	\$25.00
July.....	\$58.00

Thank you to all who have responded and placed donations in the 'spare coin jar'

BIRTHDAYS

Jim Long	8/1
Charles Vierra	8/11
Pat Wagner	8/14
Blair Usedom	8/15
Justin Goodell	8/16
Jan Brown	8/17
Ellen Anderson	8/21
Mark Hasty	8/25
Florence Conrad	8/30

ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Nancy Albright	8/6/1963
Eldon Thomas & Edna Campos	8/22/1987
Jeff & Pat Wagner	8/26/1989

(If your name does not appear on these monthly lists, please give the information to Joan)

