

ASLC NEWS

United in Christ. Welcoming All.

No July Meetings

As is our custom, Mission Teams and Church Council will not meet during the month of July. Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time serving as leaders in our church. It was a wonderful group of people who were good stewards of our church's resources and ministries.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sun, July 23rd is our Annual Congregational Meeting, 11:00am. Please have your reports in to Pastor Dave by July 26th. At this meeting we will receive the Annual Report and elect new offices for the coming church year.

Treasurer's Report

	May 2017
Income	\$8,796.03
Expenses	-9,432.86
Net Income	-\$636.83

YTD 2017 Net Income =
+\$651.54



Pastor's Column

"You cause grass to grow for the livestock and plants for people to use. You allow them to produce food from the earth." [Ps 104:14, NLT]

If you had told me five years ago that I was going to be such a plant nerd, I would have laughed in your face. Yet, here I am, a graduate of the Chestnut School of Herbal Medicine. Here I am planting and caring for herbs, berry bushes and flowers in my garden. Here I am making tinctures and teas, finishing salts and infused vinegars.

For me this is not work. It is a form of meditation. When I am watering and weeding, or harvesting and preserving, my attention is focused solely on what I'm doing. I find the whole process to be relaxing and life-giving. As I work with the natural world around me, I find myself feeling closer to God. It is as much a sanctuary for me, as Abiding Savior's worship space. Perhaps you feel the same way about your garden, if you have one.

And if you don't, this doesn't mean you are left out on developing a closer relationship with creation. [cont. p.2]

[from p. 1] I know people with apartments who have amazing container gardens on their patios or windowsills. We are also blessed to live in an area where a nature walk is minutes away from our doorstep.

At this point in my life, I have discovered that while modern technology is helpful, it can sometimes get the best of us. Being informed about what's going on in our world is important. However, being plugged into the 24 hour news cycle of fear and outrage is killing us. I find it absolutely exhausting. How about you?

To combat this information fatigue, I find it's necessary to intentionally set aside time away from my cell phone, computer and TV. Some people call this a "technology sabbath" which is a pretty good way to describe it. It is intentionally creating space in our lives for things that are "true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise," as St. Paul puts it. I find this space in my garden. You may find it elsewhere. The important thing is that we make an effort to do this for ourselves and those we love. The end result is that "the God of peace will be with us." [Phi 4:8-9]

Of course the added benefit of a garden sanctuary is that we also get to grow wonderful things to eat that keep our bodies healthy and strong and delight our taste buds. At my house, it's hard to resist a cool glass of Rosemary Lavender Lemonade or munch on a Hibiscus Strawberry Basil Popsicle. It's a treat to taste the zing of Lemon Verbena Finishing Salt on fresh vegetables or make a Bee Balm infused vinegar for your salad. If you want to up your herbal gardening game, I'm your go-to guy. I've got some great recipes and would be happy to share them with you.

The important thing is that we find our holy place away from the cares of the world. I find this space in my garden. Perhaps it can be a holy place for you as well.

Blessings, Pastor Dave

Homeward Bound Project

Homeward Bound gladly accepted items from our yard sale that did not sell. During conversations with staff members we discovered that they have a continuing need for household cleaning items that they give to their clients when they set up housekeeping. Can you donate small \$1 items that can be found from retail stores such as the Dollar Store? A box is located in the church gathering space and will be taken periodically to their warehouse to be distributed.

Homeward Bound, over the past 11 years, has a record 89% retention of those homeless staying in the apartment that HB has helped the person find. A Citizen Times article can be found on our bulletin board for more information.

Paul Knapp Wedding

Congratulations to Paul Knapp and Jessica who will be married on Saturday, July 1st. Pastor Dave will be officiating the service.

Yard Work Wish List

If you have some spare time in the coming months to spend a little time working on ASLC's gardens, please talk to Pastor Dave. There are many chores which need to be done in order to make our property shine. There are projects for people to tackle no matter your age or ability.

Nursery Volunteers

Don't forget, we need volunteers to staff the Church nursery during the sermon time. You can sign up for this on the same list as greeters, ushers, and worship assistants. Thanks!

