

HERALD OF ALCC



By God's grace, Abundant Life is here to bring people to wholeness through God's grace.

Kathie's Korner - Caution

Many of you know that I drive a Toyota Highlander. One of the perks of driving this car – one thing I insisted on purchasing with the vehicle, for the safety of others and my own peace of mind, is a back-up camera. This vehicle is larger than any transportation I'd owned for many years, and I was certain I would use the camera regularly. I break out in virtual "hives" just imagining backing up over a child or destroying valuable property. I have been grateful for that camera on more than one occasion over the last few years.

In fact, I find all blind spots frustrating. Just over my left shoulder, for instance, there's a spot that other cars "hide." I am sure that I've checked my mirrors, look visually out the window, clearing myself before pulling over into the left lane - only to hear the blaring horn of an irate driver while he speeds by and I reflexively correct my path back into my lane. The "blind spot" gets me again.

Unfortunately, not all blind spots are created by not having the ability to see. Sometimes my blind spots are created by not LOOKING. I've come to be so grateful for Sam's "shot-gun" driving when he says, "Watch out, Kathie! There's a car coming!" when my mind is a million miles away and my eyes don't look at the camera before I pull out of the parking space, or I don't check before I pull over into the fast lane of traffic... I'm so very, VERY thankful. All the tools for vision are there, but I'm not looking...

I'm not fond of admitting to SAM, however, that I'm grateful. Oh, no, I'm not fond of THAT, at ALL! To Sam, I might say something like, "I was gonna stop!" or, in great disdain, "Don't yell at me! I can see him!" It's taken some serious near misses to humble me enough to shut my mouth and admit that I need Sam to be a second set of eyes to help me watch.

If we Christians have a serious fault, this is it. We've got blind spots – glaring,

obvious blind spots, for which we've got tools – the mirror of the Word of God, Ministers of God to help show us the way, we've got the Holy Spirit, and eyes that are able to see...

But sometimes we're blinded...

And sometimes our minds are just on something else entirely and we're not thinking...

And sometimes we're just not looking...

And oh, how we hate it when someone tries to caution us...

Sometimes God just might let us have some serious near misses to remind us of how much we really do need one another – and how much we need to listen to the warnings that come from others in the body of Christ...



Our Mission - Pastor Gabe

Did you know that our church has a Mission Statement? It's true. In fact, it's posted in this very newsletter. Have you found it yet? If not, take a minute and see if you can find it.

(Waiting.)

Give up looking? It's right there on the sidebar of the front page: "By God's grace, Abundant Life is here to bring people to wholeness through God's grace."

I think that it's important for us to be aware of what our mission statement is, and the first thing that jumps out from that sentence is the emphasis on, and importance of God's grace. We, as a church, believe that salvation is a free gift, offered to every single human being, and is available only through faith in Jesus Christ, who died upon the cross for our sin and rose again from the grave. God did all of the work, and all we can do is respond to His unconditional love and forgiveness by believing in Jesus and receiving His grace. Therefore, our church makes every effort to love and care for everyone. We want to provide a warm and welcoming environment, where anyone can come and find rest, healing, and fellowship. We have embraced the words of Paul in Ephesians 2:8 (NIV): "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and it is not from yourselves,



it is the gift of God."

Isn't God's grace amazing? The more we, as sinful human beings, have failed in life, and the further we have fallen short of God's standard for righteousness, the more we can rejoice in the fact that we have been forgiven. It's like what Paul says at the end of Romans 5: "Where sin abounds, grace abounds even more!" Thank you, Lord!

But it gets even crazier, because grace doesn't stop there. God isn't just giving us a free pass, or a 'Get Out of Jail Free' card. When He offers us His grace, He blesses us with a fresh start, or a new beginning. In other words, not only does He wipe our slate clean, but He points us in the right direction, so that we don't walk down that same path of failure and disappointment. Paul says it well in Romans 6:1-2 (NIV): "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any

longer?" Paul says that God's grace is infinite and unconditional, and that it gives us everything we need to live the life that God has for us to live. We don't need to go back to our former life of sin!

As a church, we long for people to experience the fullness of God's grace in their lives. That is what we mean when we say: "Abundant Life is here to bring people to wholeness through God's grace." We want to be a church filled with men, women, and children who embrace God's forgiveness by growing and maturing in their relationships with Him.

And so, everything that we offer as a church is offered with this in mind – our worship services, Bible Studies, service opportunities, and special events. We put our resources and efforts into programs and events that we believe will enable people to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ, and embrace the full measure of grace that He has given us.

As we enter this new year of 2012, my prayer for our church is that we would grow together in God's grace. I encourage you to embrace the life of discipleship that God has called you to, and to find your place in His kingdom. Together, let's embrace God's grace and allow Him to make us whole!

February 2012

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| | | | 1 Ladies' Bible Study 10:30 am Family Night 7:00 pm | 2 | 3 Men's Bible Study 7:30 am | 4 |
| 5 Worship 8:45 am 10:30 am "Lunch Bunch" 10:30-12:00 12:30-3:00 | 6 | 7 | 8 Ladies' Bible Study 10:30 am Family Night 7:00 pm Tom's lunch 10:00 am | 9 | 10 Men's Bible Study 7:30 am Golden Empire Communion 1:30 pm | 11 |
| 12 Worship 8:45 am 10:30 am Engagement Party Tim & Sharayah 1pm | 13 | 14 Valentine's Day | 15 Ladies' Bible Study 10:30 am Family Night 7:00 pm | 16 Tom Coopers's Dinner, Sierra Pres. Church 5:30 pm | 17 Men's Bible Study 7:30 am | 18 |
| 19 Worship 8:45 am 10:30 am Children's Ministry Meeting 12pm | 20 Presidents Day | 21 | 22 Ash Wednesday Ladies' Bible Study 10:30 am Family Night 7:00 pm | 23 | 24 Men's Bible Study 7:30 am | 25 Senior's Breakfast 9:00 am |
| 26 Worship 8:45 am 10:30 am "Lunch Bunch" 10:30-12:00 12:30-3:00 | 27 | 28 | 29 Ladies' Bible Study 10:30 am Family Night 7:00 pm | | | |

A PUBLICATION OF
ABUNDANT LIFE

SENIOR PASTOR
SAMUEL D. FLOYD

ASSOCIATE PASTOR
GABE BARBER

Our Elders

Samuel Floyd 273-4665
Dan Watson 273-8165
Greg Fowler 478-1976
Chris Bierwagen 477-5992
Tim Floyd 272-9074
Gabe Barber 278-4982

Our Deacons

Larry Van Cleave 268-7314
Vic Giles 268-0457
Chris Frank 432-3946
Randy Cassel 432-3396
Wayne Badding 432-0588

Telephone

530-273-1139

E-mail

abundantlife1139@yahoo.com

Mark Your Calendars:

Wed 2/29 'How to Study the Bible' Class (6 weeks)

Thu. 4/5 Maundy Thursday Dinner

Sun. 4/8 Easter Sunrise Service

We encourage you to attend any of our mid-week Bible Studies or service opportunities.

**Classes Available on Family Night
Wednesdays - 7:00 p.m.**

Adults

Current Sermon Series Downstairs
Dan Watson
Band of Brothers Downstairs
Chris Bierwagen & Tim Floyd
The Gospel of Mark Downstairs
Greg Fowler

Beginning February 29th:
"How to Study the Bible"
Pastor Gabe Barber

Youth

(Middle School & High School)
»crossover» Sanctuary
Chris Navo & the Youth Team

Kid's Klub

Kid's Klub Fellowship Hall
Cheri Barber

*These classes remain open to new members at all times.
For more specific information, call the church office, 273-1139.*

**Look for Abundant Life Community Church
@ alconline.org & on facebook**

**Abundant Life Community Church
10795 Alta Street
P.O. Box 3237
Grass Valley, CA 95945**