

Holly Grove Lutheran

May 2011



GROWING TO SERVE!

The Holly Leaf

Invite Worship
 Give
 Study
 Encourage
 Pray
 Serve

Inside this issue:

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 Birthdays & Anniversaries

An open letter to all members of Holly Grove Lutheran Church

Dear Members of Holly Grove Lutheran Church:

We are privileged to have one of the finest ministries for seniors and their families in the nation right here in North Carolina. Lutheran Services for the Aging (LSA) has served our elderly residents for more than 50 years and has provided a setting where Christ's love has been shared and wonderful care has been provided.

LSA is now embarking on a most challenging and important effort to greatly expand this much-needed ministry and needs our help to make it a success. The plan includes the construction of four new or replacement facilities, renovations and upgrades to existing facilities and home and community based services.

During the next five weeks, you will learn more about this important effort, called ***Keeping the Promise***, to open more doors for care and ministry. We pray that your commitment to this ministry will encourage you to become involved.

In Christ,

Kim Troutman

Coordinator for Holly Grove Lutheran Church
Keeping the Promise

125th Anniversary DVD's now available—See Chip Blower
 Or call the office to reserve yours!
 Memories to keep, memories to share! Order yours now!

• **Daily Prayers, links, to ELCA , sermons, The Holly Leaf, events & more on our website:**

www.hollygrovelutheranchurch.org

• **May Basket Offering: Family Services**

• **Newsletter Team**

Caroline Mocko

Pastor John Mocko, Editor

Contributing: Minnie Conrad

Choir Prac-
tice
Wednesdays
7:30PM

May 2011

Weight Watchers
Thursdays 530PM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 915AM SS 1030AM Wor- ship Cantata: “Who Do	2 930AM Office Com- plex Bible Study	3 730PM Stewardship	4 AWE 545 Meal 630 Worship	5 7PM Mutual Ministry	6	7 Youth shop for Genesis House
8 915AM SS 1030AM Wor- ship Mother’s Day Tea hosted by Youth!	9 930AM Morning Bi- ble Study 7PM Coun- cil	10 7PM CHT	11 AWE 545 Meal 630 Worship	12	13	14 Thrivent build starts
15 915AM SS 1030AM Wor- ship Youth Skating Party 4-6PM	16 930AM Morning Bi- ble Study Agape Mother’s Day Ban-	17	18 1030AM Seniors AWE 545 Meal 630 Worship	19	20	21
22 915AM SS 1030AM Wor- ship	23 930AM Morning Bi- ble Study 7PM LMIM	24	25 AWE 545 Meal 630 Worship	26 Holly Leaf Deadline- Noon	27	28
29 915AM SS 1030AM Wor- ship Covered dish & Dessert Auction after worship	30 MEMO- RIAL DAY	31 7PM CHT				

Thank you for Serving!

May - *Altar Guild* – CHICK
Mothers Rose Garden – Minnie Conrad in Memory of Mothers Goldie & Ada
Basket Offering – Family Services

Easter Cantata: “Who Do You Say That I Am?”

1 *Acolyte*- Ty Heitman *Assisting Minister* – Caroline Mocko
Communion Assistant – Tracy Everhart
Ushers – Robin Beck, Ethan Conrad, Michael Willson, Dean Chapman
Altar Flowers- Dean & Toni Chapman in Honor of Anna & George Peterson’s Birthdays
Nursery Attendant- Libby Carrick *Prayer Room* – Cornelia Conrad
Children’s Chat - Pastor John

8 *Acolyte*- Claire Conrad *Assisting Minister* – Tracy Everhart
Ushers – Donnie Parsons, Dan Smith, Joe Davis, Jonathan Hedrick
Altar Flowers – Eddie, Tina & Ty Heitman in Honor of Mothers & Grandmothers
Nursery Attendant- Holly Curry *Children’s Chat* – PJ

15 *Acolyte*- Abi Hearn *Assisting Minister* –Jennifer Davis
Communion Assistant – Mary Davis
Ushers – Joel Hartley, Scott Black, Dean Chapman, Bob Troutman
Altar Flowers- Jane & David Brown in Honor of Megan Everhart’s 18th Birthday on 24th
Nursery Attendant- Katy Hodgson *Children’s Chat* - Pastor John

22 *Acolyte*- Caroline Black *Assisting Minister* – Janna Waitman
Ushers – Jonathan Hedrick, Mary Davis, Herbert Frank, Ethan Conrad
Altar Flowers- Micky & Carol Conrad Family for their Anniversary & Micky’s Birthday
Nursery Attendant- Debbie Parsons *Children’s Chat* - PJ

29 *Acolyte*- Sarah Grace Davis *Assisting Minister* – Carol Conrad
Ushers – Neil Clark, Dan Smith, Harold Beck, Rex Everhart
Altar Flowers- Gary & Paula Hedrick in Honor of their Anniversary
Nursery Attendant- Anna Lohr *Children’s Chat* – Pastor John

Dear Friends in Christ,

Moses said it! Jesus said it! "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. (Deuteronomy 6:5 and Mark 12:30)

Our current emphasis in ministry is to help members of our congregation develop a more passionate spirituality, that is, a deeper relationship with the Lord. What would you think about an experience that could help you be in a more vibrant, meaningful relationship with God? Would you be blessed by a deeper sense of God's amazing love for you? Does it interest you to develop a greater love for God as the scriptures invite us and to discover a more meaningful prayer life?

St. Paul wrote to the Church in the city of Ephesus: "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:1-2)

Last year the area of our ministry that offered the greatest opportunity for growth was to develop more loving relationships within our congregation. What would you think about an experience that could offer every member of our congregation, at the same time, the chance to grow deeper caring, loving relationships with each other? Would you be blessed by being real, honest, compassionate with more people in our congregation? Does it interest you to have our whole congregation bound together with stronger ties of love?

Jesus gave the church a purpose, a mission, namely: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

A couple of years ago our major emphasis was need-oriented evangelism, that is reaching out beyond the walls of our congregation to meet the needs of our neighbors with the love of Christ. Evangelism is a scary word for most Christians. We are not sure why we should do evangelism and we are quite sure that we don't know how to do it in a way that fits us. What would you think about an opportunity that will give you greater confidence to share your faith? Would you be blessed with inspiration that naturally leads you in your current relationships to speak about the faith you hold? Would it interest you if I told you you will discover a natural, way to talk about God's journey with you?

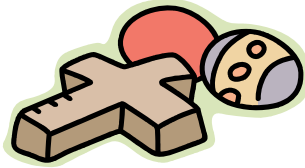
An exciting, uplifting, empowering experience will be made available to every member of our congregation in the fall. We are calling it the ***E-vent***. We will offer several classes in a study of a book, *Unbinding Your Heart*, during a six week period beginning September 11th. We invite every member of Holly Grove Lutheran Church, and our friends, to join us in this life-changing, faith-nurturing, church-building, love-sharing experience. Look for more to come, but set aside some time so you can join in the experience.

In Christ's love,

Pastor John

Mark Your Calendar!

Agape Friends Mother's Day Banquet will be Monday, May 16 at 6:30PM at Southern Lunch. Menu is breaded chicken breast, ham, macaroni & cheese, salad, green beans and strawberry cobbler. \$10 per person. There is a sign up sheet in the hallway. Make checks to: Agape Friends Circle and give to Guyla Kepley or Cindy Hartley.



Holly Grove Youth!

*On Saturday, May 7, Youth will shop for supplies for the
Genesis House.*

Your donation to Youth for this servant event, is most welcome. Please see Sherry Proctor, Bobbie Fritts, or Wendy Lohr

Items we will be shopping for:

Children & Adult Books

Cleaning Supplies

Baby Supplies (diapers & wipes)

Tylenol

Clothes & Personal Care Items

*Sunday, May 8—Mother's day
Youth host a "Mother's Day Tea"
after worship in Fellowship Hall.*

*Sunday, May 15, Youth will have a skating party at
Anchor Skating Rink in Lexington from 4 to 6PM!
If you are not participating with our Youth Group, just show up and
share faith, fun, and food with us!*

Happy Birthday!

Anna Chapman Peterson	1
George Peterson	1
Emma Hodgson	4
Billie Curry	6
Cindy Hartley	6
Alison Lohr	6
Roseila Sommer	6
Larry Vaughn	10
Lauren Cecil	11
Scott Black	13
Holly Varner	13
Blake Welch	13
David Brown	14
Scott Varner	14
Micky Conrad	16
April Baker	17
Tracey Queen	17
Melita Bailey	18
Anissa Stewart	18
Dane Batten	20
Judy McLain	22
Shay Sanford-Alexander	22
Amy Horn	23
Sheila Davis	24
Megan Everhart	24
Judy Black	25
Rusty Blower	25
Chris Beck	26
Emily Beck	26
Bill Frank	26
Joe Davis	27
Madilyn Joy Blower	28
Geordon Kepley	29
Johnny Turner	29
Lisa McLain	31
Dan Smith	31

Happy Anniversary !

James & Marie Palmer	2
Steve & Andi Curry	3
Donnie & Debbie Parsons	4
Chodd & Caroline Hedrick	7
Joel & Cindy Hartley	15
Micky & Carol Conrad	20
Wynn & Annette Conrad	21
Herbert & Debbie Frank	23
Jimmy & Beverly Harrison	27
Gary & Paula Hedrick	29



Vergie Lucille Monteith
Sue Anderson
Edna Conrad
Maxine Conrad
Barbara Conrad
Larry Vaughn

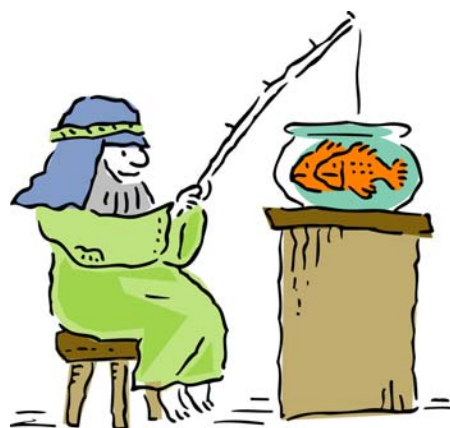
All are listed in your directory. Please remember them with a call or a card.

Fishing, Faith, and Fellowship!
“Catch the Spirit!”

Men, Women, Boys & Girls!
\$20 per person reserves your
“spot”.

October 27, 28, 29 at Kure’ Beach
2 nights = \$64 per person

Fish Fry follows in November as
we feed our Back Pack Families,
our Teen Parents, and provide fried
fish and all the fixings for the
Homeless Shelter in Lexington.
See Pastor John for more info.



“Catch the Spirit”
Holly Grove Lutheran

Seniors

by Minnie Conrad

Holly Grove Senior Citizens met Wednesday, April 20th at Mt. Tabor fellowship hall. A beautiful rose bush was the centerpiece. Jan Watkins and Brenda Miller served snacks and coffee while we visited. Small Easter baskets decorated the tables.

Jan had devotions and several readings about education since that was the theme of the program which was “Senior Lifelong Learning”.

Brenda Miller introduced Brenda Hedrick and Missy Watkins West from DCCC. Missy is the daughter of Jan and Jim Watkins. She is Coordinator for the Conference Center and Community Enrichment Coordinator for DCCC. She is a busy lady. Missy gave us information about what classes the college offers for seniors. There are classes for painting, pottery, song writing, stained glass and many more. She also wanted to know what we were interested in. She had us fill out a survey to list what we thought would be helpful. Classes are free for seniors over 65. Jan and Brenda shared that they had taken many courses. Some are available on line.

Following a blessing by Pastor Sluder, a delicious meal prepared by Daisy Crisp, was served. The community is invited to join us at Mt. Tabor each third Wednesday at 10:30.

Wanted: Good Cooks of Holly Grove :

The Fellowship Committee needs your help!
We are planning a covered dish lunch for May 29th after church.
We will also be having a silent "Dessert" auction to raise money for
The Lutheran Services For The Aging.

We really need your best desserts for that auction. If you can help us out let Kim Troutman or Carol Conrad know. We would like to set the desserts up in the fellowship hall during Sunday School on the 29th and let people place their written bids between Sunday School and Worship Services. The highest bidder will receive their prize during the covered dish lunch.

Hope to see you there!

“The Me I Want To Be: Becoming God’s Best Version Of You!”

I asked the group how this class, The Me I Want To Be: Becoming God's Best Version Of You, affected them and what they got out of coming each Sunday.

These are our responses:

- Making relationships with our group members.
- It made me read a book I wouldn't have normally read....and I loved it!
- We learned ways to be more like God wants us to be and it was different ways each week.
- It was biblically sound and freeing.
- It gave a different perspective of how God wants us to be.
- It taught us that it is OK to be **who you are.**
- God is working in our lives.
- I understand that God made me who I am for a reason and it is good to be me.
- It teaches us how to use our gifts and talents.

Tina Hofer is offering a new class starting Sunday, May 1st.

Michelle’s Story

I was driving to UNCG and running about 30 minutes late for class. I started getting mad at myself. I just knew I was going to cut myself down the whole time I was in the car and feel ashamed interrupting class when I walked in late. This wasn't the first time I was late, so I was used to the pattern of stressing, insulting, and shaming myself and then promising myself I would wake up earlier next time. I wanted to have a better day. I wanted to break this cycle, so thinking of a book I just finished reading, I prayed, “God, please be with me as I drive to school. I need to feel you with me so I can be a blessing to others. I won't be a blessing if I continue to guilt myself into a miserable mood, so be with me. Ride in the car so I can talk to you. I want to be a blessing to someone today, for **your** glory *continued on following page....*

Michelle's story continued.....

I continued to talk to God as I drove to school. I didn't figure I could be on time for class, but I knew I could bless others as God has blessed me. I knew I could hold my head high as a child of God and choose to serve God today instead of serving my pride.

I took a different road to park closer to my class. Out my window I saw a man holding a sign. I didn't read it, but figured it said something like, "Homeless, anything will help, God Bless," or "Out of work. Please help. God Bless." I pulled in the lot, and flagged the man down. As soon as he reached my car, he asked, "Did I do something wrong? I have my permit to be out here. Did I do something wrong?" "That is not why I pulled in," I replied. "I have some food in my lunch that I would like to share with you." I handed him part of my lunch and the man began to cry. He clasped my hand with both of his and thanked me for the sandwich and apple. Then he started sharing. "You know, I fought in Vietnam and I give most of my money to charity, but I'm not going to lie to you," he said. "I have a drinking problem. I drink a lot... and I have lung cancer. Do you think you could have you tell your church about me and have them pray for me? My name is David Gaither. Please remember David Gaither and have your church pray for me. Forgive me for being so emotional." He held back tears while we talked a while longer and then I told him I needed to go to class.

As we were saying our good-byes, I thought, *If this man is asking for prayer, then I should pray with him.* So I asked, "Would you like me to pray for you before I go?" He wept and nodded. We held hands, I prayed, and David cried. I heard him mumble a few words during the prayer, "I'm sorry... forgive me... thank you..." After the prayer, David thanked me again. He said that if I had time another day, *he* would like to take *me* to lunch... Amazing! I cling to the "much" that I have, giving him so little and David, who had so little, wanted to spend what he had to take me to lunch. I set a day and time to meet him and he responded with a big smile, "I'll be here," as if to say he always is.

A few days later I went to David's corner. I waited a while and didn't see him. I felt myself getting a little sad. Maybe I wouldn't see him today... Not wanting to think that quite yet, I decided to get burgers across the street at Wendy's. Then, when I did see him we could just sit, chat, and eat. I was eager to get to know him better and hear his life story. While at Wendy's, I saw him near his corner. I rushed to my car and watched as he looked around and went back into a store. I thought, *It makes perfect sense. It's raining. He must be waiting for me in the store so he doesn't get too wet.* Thrilled, I drove across the street, hopped out of my car, and made a beeline for the store. I saw the man that was in the parking lot... It was not David. Hopeful that he was still taking shelter somewhere from the rain, I asked the employees if they had seen him today. One said, "Oh yeah, he was out there earlier today." A second added, "I saw the police talking to him."

Disappointed, I walked back to my car and noticed David's sign in the grass. I felt my heart break a little for a tender-hearted man. To no avail, I drove around a few different blocks hoping that I might see him on a different corner.

As I drove, it struck me that God probably feels something like this every day. Excitement and gladness when it appears we are walking his way. Brokenhearted and grieved when instead we are walking away. And praise God that he doesn't stop looking for us after a few blocks. Our God does not leave us, does not forsake us,
and will search the ends of the earth for us.

Build starts May 14th!

Yard Sale to raise \$\$ for Build
June—date TBD

Hotdog sale & Movie Night & Auction

More info to come!

Thrivent Builds! We need you! Build a house in Lexington!

Contact Dean Chapman to help!

Thrivent is teaming up with **Habitat for Humanity** to build a house. You do not have to be a Thrivent member to volunteer!

Contact Dean Chapman our “Champion” here at HGLC to help with the build.

We need workers. You choose how much and when you want to work.

Help is needed weekdays and Saturdays . Call Dean at 357-7164

Contact Sharon Everhart to help provide & serve lunch one Saturday each month during the build. We’ll have sandwiches, chips, drinks and cookies. You can volunteer for one Saturday or as many as you like. Call Sharon at 249-7260.

When: Build will begin May 14.

Where: The location is the corner of Burgess Street and Franklin Street.

Who: Pastor Derek Boggs, First Lutheran Church—Thrivent Leader for build.

Please come out and support Thrivent & Habitat for Humanity.

Holly Grove Lutheran Church
212 Holly Grove Lutheran Church Rd
Lexington, NC 27292
336-249-2807
The Reverend John Mocko, Pastor

www.hollygrovelutheranchurch.org

email: pastorjohn@hollygrovelutheranchurch.org

office: hglc@hollygrovelutheranchurch.org

Sundays

915AM Sunday School

1030AM Worship

AWE—Awesome Worship Experience

5:45PM Meal 6:30PM-7:30PM Worship

Food + Fellowship + Prayer + Music



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.